

MARY HESS  
President-elect,  
Executive Parent Advisory Council

On behalf of the Executive Parent Advisory Council, I would like to thank all of the people who attended the Community Referendum Education Night on Jan. 10 at DeKalb High School.

EPAC strives to positively contribute to the educational environment by being a proactive resource in promoting, strengthening and celebrating the partnership that exists among schools, families and the community. We applaud the community members who recognize and demonstrate interest in this partnership. It was encouraging to see the number of residents who took advantage of the opportunity to see the current conditions at the high school, become informed about the referendum plan and respectfully ask valid questions.

We are in the process of answering all questions that were submitted. If you have access to the Internet, you can go to the ReNew our Schools Web site at [http://www. voteyes428.org/](http://www.voteyes428.org/) to read answers. If you do not have access to the Internet, please call Mary Hess at 815-754-9186 to request a copy of these questions and answers to be mailed to your home.

Members of EPAC work closely with school district administrators during monthly meetings. Through this work, we have been able to improve communication among parents, students, educators, administrators and the school board. Since the inception of EPAC in August 2006, school district administrators have been very candid about the facts that ultimately led to the current referendum. In turn, EPAC members have done a remarkable job of sharing such information at parent-teacher association and parent-teacher organization meetings. Throughout this entire process, questions and feedback from parents to the school district have always been sought and encouraged. There will be additional opportunities for parent feedback on future plans for the school district. Please plan on attending your next PTA or PTO meeting to learn more about how you can share your views with school district administrators. If you are interested in learning more about the purpose and goals of EPAC, please contact a board member of your PTA or PTO.

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