



Dear Parents,

I know you have been waiting for news on GATES High School. We have taken into account the feedback you, the students and staff gave us during our Discovery Period last school year. We have listened and are incorporating your ideas into the design of the school.

The beginning of any undertaking as big as this one requires a lot of discussions with a lot of people. I think we have a very good idea of what we want the buildings to look like. Above is a concept drawing of one of the buildings we are considering. It is important that we stay true to the mission of GATES. We want to build a facility that works with the land, uses alternative building materials and power sources and makes as small of an impact on the land as possible without hindering the need for a state of the art high school.

What we are imagining is something that has never been done before and when it is complete will become a project that will receive national and international recognition.

The first big step has been accomplished! We have a letter of commitment for 10 million dollars to finance the first phase.

The next step is going to require help from you. We are working with the Lutz community, addressing their concerns yet trying to reach a compromise agreeable to all. Many of you are aware of the difficulty the school district has had trying to get a high school built in Lutz. Students who live in the Lutz community have to attend either

Freedom in New Tampa, Steinbrenner or Gaither. This has been a burden for both the families and the schools.

If you are one of the families effected by this, perhaps a petition can be drafted and signed by those who would support us. Anyone interested in taking on this effort please call me. There already is a petition circulating against the high school. That petition has many inaccuracies in it.

We are working closely with the EPC for approval for minimal impact on wetlands. Because of the Lutz Comprehensive Plan requiring high schools to have the major entrance on a four-lane highway we are trying to solve the problem of access.

Our next hurdle is the special use hearing that will be occurring in December. We expect opposition so we will need the petitions "for" GATES to be presented. As the date grows nearer I will give you more specifics.

The 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students are humming along at our temporary location and are enjoying the facility, curriculum and staff. They continue to amaze us with the sophistication of their projects and the confidence they exhibit when presenting their work.

With the experience they have obtained to this point with PBL, the ultimate project of planning and building their own school will leave a legacy of which they can all be proud.

Patti Girard  
Executive Director  
Learning Gate Education Foundation