

18 March 2004

TO: Franklin Municipal Planning Commission  
RE: Franklin High School Plan

To Mr. Johnson and Mr. Fortney – I complement you on this plan for Franklin High School. As designed it will make a wonderful contribution to our community, it will surely become a significant landmark, and it will serve well those students fortunate enough to attend.

To the Williamson County Commission and the Williamson County School Board – Thank you for recognizing the need, understanding the significance of the location, and for providing funding for this project. However, I believe you (and we) are missing a great opportunity by merely replacing an old school building with a new one of similar size that will essentially serve the same number of students. This facility does not adequately address the requirements of the population that immediately surrounds it. You knew this when the process began and your most recent rezoning verifies this as fact.

Franklin High School is the flagship school of the system and is properly sited in the heart of the most densely populated and completely built-out part of Williamson County. It is sited in the heart of an urbanized area adjacent to and contiguous with other publicly owned land. It is thus reasonable to consider that the new Franklin High School could be built to meet the needs of this area, serving the extended neighborhoods that surround the school, and accommodate a greater student population than the building being replaced.

I implore the members of the School Board to change the model and methodology that dictates where and when schools are built to one of neighborhood placement based on immediate population density. Build schools where the students live instead of bringing the students to the schools. Build schools that meet neighborhood and community requirements and character instead of one-size-fits-all. Build schools that strengthen neighborhoods and encourage participation, that bring families together.

Daniel B. Klatt  
Alderman, Fourth Ward