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Candidate for Mayor

Press Release

What to do with Queen of Peace properties?

2018 Candidate for Mayor of North Arlington - Al Granell

In walking North Arlington for my campaign run for mayor in 2018. There have been many issues that you have discussed with me at the door and your homes. The issue of taxes and the value for those taxes is a main priority of yours. One that I hope as Mayor to work with the governing body to address.

The other is the Queen of Peace properties and what they would mean to our school system. You view that as an opportunity. You have made it known quite clearly that North Arlington needs to address the issue of overcrowding that you feel we are facing as a community in our schools. Construction at Roosevelt is a step in the right direction. But what about the middle school, Jefferson and the high school. The question is, "What does the BOE or Mayor and Council do"? My campaign for mayor is not about a Republican or Democrat solution or even a BOE and Mayor and Council one. We need a North Arlington solution.

The Archdiocese has made it clear that they are not interested in selling the property. Perhaps purposing a charter school for that site. So, with that being said. A suggestion. Why doesn't North Arlington make a bid to be that school and enter an agreement with the archdiocese to fill that gap? For example. North Arlington could enter into a long term lease with the archdiocese. We could move the high school to the new location and make the high school a middle school or elementary school reducing class size. The NABOE is best suited to decide what school would go where. But we need to work together to make that happen and seize the opportunity.

Remember that no one person can solve the issue. So I would propose that the NABOE and Mayor and Council work on a proposal to present to the archdiocese concerning leasing the properties long term.

They could hold open meetings with the community to get input and develop such a proposal. They could even check the resolve of the community for the joint solution by the NABOE and Mayor and Council. A referendum can be placed on the JUNE 2018 primary Election ballot. That's only eight months from now. Ensuring that you the community is part of the decision process that not just affects your taxes. But children and all residents alike. This only happens if you the community want this solution.

This is an opportunity requiring us as a community to think out of the box and if by listening to you at the door I've learned one thing. It would be that you want a say in your community.

I continue to look forward to meeting you on the campaign trail for mayor. Together, working together all of us. There is nothing we can't do for North Arlington.

Sincerely,
AL Granell
2018 Candidate for Mayor of North Arlington
People over Politics