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Erin Jablonski Interview

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Hello and welcome back to Buck now occupied here on 90.5 WV BU Lewisburg. This is the first real show of the semester. Last week was a warm up and now I have a guest in the studio with me, Aaron Jablonski, Prof. of chemical engineering director of the precollege engineering program and mom welcome to the studio. Aaron, thank you so Aaron, you're here to talk about several issues tonight are one being your candidacy for the school board but then a receiver can have a conversation about issues in the district that the proposed workforce housing site plan and how that interfaces with other particular struggles. The district is facing so should be a good conversation for those of you out there listening. If you have questions for Aaron. Please give me a call in the studio. The number is 570-577-3489 so I thought we could just start by talking about why it was that you were running for the school board sure so I'm very interested in K-12 education in general and I have been since graduate school so when I was coming up that some issues were arising in the district that I felt may not reflect everyone's priorities. I wanted to start looking more into our school district operates and what their budgets were like how departments within the school refunded. Whether or not there were adequate numbers of teachers per grade to keep class sizes reasonable all these sorts of things and so because part of my job as director of precollege engineering programs is to be the affiliate director for project lead the way, which is a national nonprofit organization that does stem curricula for K-12 education site visit schools around the state to certify their programs very familiar with what's happening in middle schools and high schools and to and coming up this year also be visiting elementary schools so because of my background and being interested in K-12 education hosting programs for K-12 students and K-12 teachers. I just wanted to bring that knowledge to our district with their particular issue that really set you off in terms of thinking that now is the time that you want to run for office. Yes. So in the 2013 election, I was asked if I would run and I knew that I knew that I was going to be going abroad for teaching opportunity so I decided not to run which upon reflection was no that was the best decision. However, now, when when the issue came up for relocating the high school I was really concerned because I wanted to make sure that the district wasn't overspending and there was this implication that we weren't going to change our debt service and it wasn't going to increase taxes will in fact everyone who's in the listening area tax bills know that when I reach I went out and they will continue to go up because we did in fact increase our debt service if you if you look closely at the budgets debt service did increase and in addition to that we have obligations for the teachers, the state fencing so the Pennsylvania underfunded certain obligations for teachers regarding benefits thing so that fell more to the districts we have a very high local burden, and what that means is that compared to districts around the state wherein we have a very high percentage of our total school budget that's funded by property taxes from the district rather than being allocated from the state or federal government sue can you talk you for listeners out there who may not have have followed that the debates about the high school very closely. Can you talk a little bit about you know that the conversation that led to the decision to relocate the high school sure. So in the first conversation that happened were in 2009, and a group of

people say maybe hundred people from the community were invited to comment on several options regarding either building a new high school renovating the existing high school changing locations of school so there are many options presented number. Very good. The majority of people actually did select options that kept the high school in town but the greatest single percentage was to relocate the high school and there was I think general and want to say misinformation, but it was hard to get the information. I think that was needed to make good decisions about this because there was implied it was going to cost the same amount to renovate the existing school as it was to build new and whether or not that's true, you can never know because you can't prove a negative. Renovate the old high school which is decided to build new and so do for me. I wanted to see that budget reflect the priorities of supporting teachers having resources for teachers having reduced activities fees. No leveling the playing field for kids across the district. Those are never budgets in for activities and for class and having two-level where you weren't seeing such a need for extreme fundraising and once your child is in the public school system. I think you'll become more aware of the need for fundraising. In general, but I just wanted to see a difference set of priorities are collected in and using our public dollars, and so why, why do you think it is that the district itself decided to push forward and and and build an entirely new high school on shore. So the existing high school. For those of you who are familiar with Lewisburg is landlocked is only on about 6 acres so it does not have access directly to athletics field except the one in the backyard there was a concern that students were crossing the street to go over to the middle school fields to practice in competition and that it was really hard to schedule, so there was a complaint. Also, we did have a wrestling facility and that this was something that was really wanted by significant number of people in the district whether or not that's a good investment. Time will tell, but it costs a lot of money to build a wrestling facility and maintain it and staff it when it when you have an event cost a lot of money to build a stadium which many people have expressed desire to have our own stadium for the Lewisburg district also quite expensive compared to what they do now which is to lease on the event occasion of no stadium so just those were some of the reasons some teachers wanted nicer rooms right so the art teacher needed more sinks. The science teachers needed better lab space certain things certain things that could've been accomplished with renovation. There was this decision to build new and know so this year is the last year of having students at the current site. The idea is that the new school would be ready for occupancy January 1 of 2017. The current school would be vacated. So be over the Christmas or winter holiday break of next year. Of yet, the 16th 17 winter that the students would move to the new school site. Now I know you been quite involved in conversations about what to do with the high school site itself can do you have any updates on that for us. Sure. So one of the things that really concerned me about moving the school was, I felt that we were using public dollars to duplicate a lot of the resources that we already had and so I wanted to keep that building in the sort of in the public services and so I wrote a proposal to repurpose an committee at the time. I believe I was the only proposal mine was the only proposal that was submitted

and I worked with the developer. The complete called green space and the chairman is an alum of Buck now who happened to be in a meeting with in the winter of 2014 and I was distraught just who pleased about the decision to move the high school because at that time it was becoming finalized yet winter of 2014 and he said to me, my company by schools. If you want me to buy that building innovative proposal soon. I did and we got a lot of community agencies on board. I'm really excited. The heater center will be moving to the new high school River stage, which also brings along gas pipe theater will be coming to the new high school. All the agencies that currently use the heater center space. The community zone fencing club some clogs. All these organizations will come to the new high school with the heater center was river stage with with that and then will also be space for some small business suites so people who may be ready to move out of the oven incubator or small office space and into their own business suite. There will be some services supported there from the small business of element center Hildebrand Learning Center, which was bought by Bright horizons group so they'll bring a preschool program to the high school and there is also some support for Geisinger to bring a tech transfer commercialization office to what used to be that the old science lab and in news they're going to be I renovation of that space involved in this transition word or people just moving into old classroom. Some of it will be moving as is no when we tour the high school in February of this year that is green space were shocked at how well it how well intact. The building was in terms of no use. They usually go into abandon school so were talking broken Windows dripping feelings. They were they were thinking. This is this is great know to move into. So that's good news and can be moved into as is, there will be some renovation to devising hallways, and give each person their own entrance and that sort of thing and then to also build some tax base for the borough because the borough has lost some properties on the sixth street and in the flood zone. There will be some homes built on the St. Louis Street area silica healed its townhome sound correct to match though they won't look they will match the aesthetic of the neighborhoods they won't look like to review new, you know, vinyl siding, they won't look like that they're going to look historic and who is paying for the development of those properties green space okay right now. One of the things that I think has occurred to a lot of people in thinking about that though the presence of this new high school is is transportation issues right because you know it's certainly there were, they were students who needed to commute to the current high school location but there were many, many students who could walk and as far as I understand it, the new site. Almost no one can walk to write. Even people who can probably see it from their house couldn't walk because there are no sidewalks on the road and there. To my knowledge there no plans for significant road improvements that would improve pedestrian access. There will be some access between the Kelly elementary site in high school, but I don't know of any other ease of access that that follows the road to transportation. Currently I believe this is to almost 2-year-old data because it's what I was writing articles and really no digging into the data. About 40% of kids live within the Pennsylvania definition of walking distance to which is what how far I think it's 1.1 mile nobody and probably not

altogether walking 1.1, that even if by a lot of kids are leaving the high school and they go downtown's a lot of the downtown business and enjoy the foot traffic. They're going to be the place they're going to the bookstore. They're going you know wherever they might be going. I guess leapfrog was everything I go after school and so I think that the lien of the business is news that is a walkable school and so now will be busing more the district did a calculation that said only one additional bus. One additional bus doesn't resent him additional miles were talking about, there's there's going to be significantly more students on buses four more miles to get to the new nation and so yeah were just gonna pump some more greenhouse gases into the environment truck and get around and then in terms of budgets right so in terms of what that actually cost the district to bustle these additional kids for so many more miles and what are we talking in terms of the cost to the district itself. It's hard to say right now. I believe they calculated the difference of only something like \$16,000. Based on this one bus approximation. However, if you look at what we currently spend that we spend out of our budget. 1.2 million on transportation. We get reimbursed about 600,000 of that from the state from the state because there's the rural route reimbursement program. It's for it's really designed for rural districts that have a school in the middle of no miles and miles and miles of farmland, homes, and so you got a lot of kid miles on the bus, so to say what the actual impact will be. Maybe to be \$16,000, maybe \$40,000. Whatever it is it's it's not small right just to give people a sense of what \$16,000 does \$16,000 might be the entire department budget for a high school science program. I don't know that's exactly true in our district, but because they visit districts around the state and I talked to principals and superintendents and I ask, what is your budget for your tech programmer science program. Whenever I know that the 10,000, \$15,000 range is a typical department budget, seared your talking about significant dollars writing the budget of the department and in terms of this new high school. I mean, I imagine it's it's as you talked about a BC. The facilities are more expensive upgraded but is the building itself built to accommodate more students that are currently going to the high school that we have. Yes, there is a significantly higher square footage per student in the new school. The old school was only slightly undersized and it actually wasn't even the smallest square footage per student. If you look at the annual construction report. Okay, people are still building schools that have less square footage per student than our existing high school to the new school is in the very highest level of square footage per student and does the district anticipate the arrival of significant number of new students know. In fact, in the request for proposals that was put out for a purpose and yield high school. They did a whole demographic analysis. There was a consulting firm that was brought in to do an analysis census data what ages group age groups moving and more kids whatever up .1% increase in the population dissipated in 10 years. Majority of that being people who would not have children of school age right we been talking here on but not occupied with Aaron Jablonski working to take a brief break and then we will be back welcome back you listening to Buck now occupied here on WV BU 90.5 Lewisburg have Aaron Jablonski our own professor of chemical engineering and

candidate for Lewisburg area school District Board of Supervisors here in the studio with me tonight and were talking about issues related to education in the district so Aaron we were talking about transportation and the repurchasing of the old high school site and and I wanted us to talk about some issues that I think are on the minds of a lot of parents of children in the district, particularly in the in the middle schools and and that's the linked issues in my mind at least. And if they're not for you. Maybe you know I'd like to hear why the linked issues of technology use and standardized testing because both of these things have become very ubiquitous for children in the district. Yes, so getting first to standardized testing say think that might be more than issue. I am surprised although I should no longer be. I'm surprised and still every time you read an article about how much anxiety teenagers, young teenagers are experiencing because they're getting ready for their standardized test, then there is the option to opt out with any of that kid that opted out. So my kids already have anxiety you worried about competence issues they not opt out just because they're worried that Mia people view them as you know you little look different to that's the first thing I don't like the anxiety induced by it. I also don't like the high-stakes idea then we have to get our numbers up. We have to have a certain rank. We have to make a certain magazine, all that sort of thing I I don't think that that serves our kids there may be some points where it is appropriate to take the temperature of the particular class year as a whole just to get a sense of you know what kids have learned on the metric that was imperfect. So there you go. I do think is interesting that we start the school year so early others. Lots of reasons for this, but one may be that it's to get more days before the testing. For whatever that's worth a look more into that I'm not privy to all the information that the current school board has, but I'm curious to know about the reasoning and technology in the classroom. Okay, so we know from the literature that screen time is not good for kids. It affects their attention span to be tech savvy on an iPad is really not that impressive as it was designed to be idiot proof. I'm quoting a friend who probably would prefer to remain unnamed with the truth and so I support the idea that kids should be proficient with the computer. Enough that they can note to word processing a little bit of coding understand Excel make presentations but spending you know a significant amount of time in front of the screen may limit their socialization may limit their ability to express themselves through writing well just you know I I would have to see what's actually in place when children are young so I haven't seen what's going on directly in the middle school yet, but I'm curious to know how much screen time and if there is proof or evidence or say there's evidence that it's really making students that much better prepared for anything beyond you know school know, I know that you know anecdotally that did the district has adopted number 1 to 1121 yes which goes from what I understand begins in third grade and goes all the way through high school yes in and the way understand the programs that students are given an iPad and and that iPad is theirs to both use at school and take home yet and there is up there. Some of the kindergarten classrooms who are beginning to experiment with having the children use iPads quite regularly in the classroom outside of their formal time in the computer lab and so I think a lot of a lot of parents of particularly young children are very

concerned about the introduction of these devices it at such a young age yes so I can only say good things about my son's kindergarten teachers. I'm very so far it's been a couple weeks. Things are going really well, but I'm given example and this is completely hypothetical and just something to think about. I would rather that my child were doing a sorting exercise using physical materials and movement like actually getting up from their chair and sorting things into bins and taking a turn because taking a turn impulse control. Those sorts of things are extremely important in young children first get a garden first and second grade and so if you are everyone sitting on their own device. They're not taking a turn. They're not interacting with their classmates and there's no motion except you know what I refer to as the tender motion. My website bright and so I think it is important that we keep some activities that were traditionally done in kindergarten, first and second grade classrooms traditional and what might be the motivation behind this one-to-one program right. Why would it district and I'm sure were not the only district. Why would a district want to embrace this kind of a program because there's a I think there's a lot of pressure to demonstrate that you're introducing as much classroom technology as is in the mode right now you know so everything sort of trending toward more devices per child. I haven't really seen schools except alternative schools. They wait a minute, maybe we should think about what kids really need to know which is how to interact with other people and how to control your impulses and how to handle themselves in a situation whether sharing so other than that it's just the idea that they want kids to be proficient with devices and if my three-year-old can use my smart phone. I feel like there is there is one element of this that I think is important to address. And that's the idea of the level playing field which I very much do believe and if there are children who don't have devices at home and they don't get that practice and they don't have that familiarity. It is important for them to see in the classroom or in an afterschool program in some way is not getting it is they don't have access at home so that is important, but in general I don't know where the pendulum is right now I don't know if were were too far to too much time per kid per you with a device or if we could still and I'm sure we can still increase right is delete lunch number so the I pay think I see that, though that's not an abnormal situation. I see that in every school a visit. They brag about how many laptop carts they have right right now I do know one thing that's really been on everybody's radar in the past two weeks, maybe even just one week is the introduction of a full-time school resource officer will resource officer yes can you talk to us about what has been decided shores only give a little background first. For those of you who may not of been following this, the state police used to run a program where retired police officers could be school resource officers and the district could essentially pay for it through the state police program and and what a dummy. What would these people doing the school they would be in the schools to monitor things to just be a presence essentially a presence to an armed present an armed presence, but monitoring safety presence was the idea I get some points in the past there have been issues. Maybe a belligerent parents, a pickup time or or sporting events, or whatever it may be, and that it is maybe reassuring to have a safety officer arms questionable if that person

would need to be armed but it may be nice to not have to have an administrator or or teacher or coach have to intervene in that scenario, however, and do we need an armed officer in elementary school. I don't know. There is not evidence that that that makes a difference to have an armed officer in actually any school level to let people know there was an armed officer on premises at Columbine there was an armed officer assigned a new town so horrible tragedies can happen even when there is the presence of a safety officer but if your person on the school board you have to think you have the responsibility of children safety and so I think the inclination is to air on the side of caution and safety in the overprotection armed is a big question for a lot of people. Many people bring up exactly that point. Why do you need someone was carrying a weapon, gone Taser in an elementary or middle school leaving high school. I will bring in one additional issue. Maybe people are not familiar right now. If students are truant, then the magisterial judge has to issue like a warrant or no truancy. No, whatever that that document is called so the school could have their own truant officer and that would help a lot. It would also help for staff who would like to do home visits and may be concerned about the may be concerned about traveling to a home alone and so is school resource officer might be able to escort someone who would like to do a home visit particular cases of truancy. So there's this is a very there's lots of things on both sides of the pros and cons list. The question I think that is still in everyone's mind is armed what you know what is the purpose of abetting that person has an arm and a native from what you understand at this point I said this is a decision that just went through. What is this person's job description. Are they in fact acting as a truant officer or they enforcing discipline in the classrooms. Are they patrolling the hallways in case there's a sniper who shows up. Do you have a sense of what I think. Does the truant officer of the person would be a truant officer that is in need of the district. Right now it's something even the menstrual judge that we should have that is a good reason are a good part of the job description of the school resource officer patrolling the hallways. Maybe being president parking lot being present events at large events where you would normally expect to see some security or safety officers. That is all normal disciplinary actions of taking action against an individual student in a scenario where maybe someone else would've stepped in the past so as an example, let's consider the case of breaking up a fight in high school right you as a teacher or ministry might not know what those students have on them. As far as weapons or whatever, we don't have metal detectors going indoor schools they could potentially be armed right so this is it is a concern, however, so far there's been no evidence that having an armed person intervene in that scenario has a better outcome. In fact, it can often have a worse outcome and once the gun is they are just that possibility of escalation is so much higher enemy from from the reading that I've done and on the same not reading extensively in these issues, but from from what I understand. I in fact, the introduction of I'm just can say cops into the school. School resource officers got saving right to the introduction of these police into the school on leads to a certain kind of culture developing within that school, and in fact it was in the 1960s the late 1960s in urban schools that police officers began to be installed precisely to tamp down

any political activity on the part of the students I assume it was it was it a very intentional move so I think it's hard for a lot of parents to to see this kind of decision being made and not make these kinds of associations that let's say you know a kid. Maybe someone who's large for his age right. Maybe someone who acts a little bit outside of sort of the cultural norms of his classroom. I said something that a teacher doesn't quite understand right and instead of following the existing disciplinary procedures. She notices the officer out the hallway and asked him to come in and and help her out right all these kinds of slippery ways in which the discipline in the classroom and the police discipline I become collapsed right and one important thing you mentioned was difference so anyway that a kid may be different from classmates could be something that makes them more likely to be a target. There misunderstood there there having difficulty at home or with academics or whatever the case may be something that would set them apart and they they may end being a target. There was an interesting article referring to the pipeline to prison right this idea that if you if you are continuing. If you're continually the target of action by someone in a position of authority like a police officer in the school. It almost escalates the situation in the in even the actions of that student though there's there's some evidence that it may not serve the purpose that you want and there are negative associations that can certainly be made and everyone can play out some scenario in their head whether they think maybe a police officer intervening. There was not the best solution sending you bring up the issue of difference in and I'm wondering you know I think people have a have a myth of Lewisburg night is as it is a fairly economically in an racially homogenous district night at think there's there's quite a few people that that when they think about Lewisburg. This is what they're thinking about, but I from what I understand that that's not actually the real picture of of who lives in the district and and who goes to the district schools. So maybe thing talk to us a little bit about the kinds of economic differences in particular between the different groups of students. Sure, so I'm sure many of you saw the daily item article that came out that implied that were getting close to the percentage where we qualify for title I funding so this is a program it's related to there's different ways that you can measure the serve title I criteria can be by how many students receive free and reduced lunch, or by some census information for the area. There's several different ways you can assess how how many students going to the district have the need for certain Gallic services and so what this should maybe make people realize is certain things can be prohibitive for some children are district. One thing that that I was surprised to find out are the activities fees were things like sports and and other extracurriculars, and the fact that students here pay for their AP tests which the prized me and certain other things where I understand. So there's you want to eat you want to not have to increase our budget too much. As I mentioned earlier we have a significant local burden. So it's basically a majority was paper was going on. Article district is our property taxes to people who don't have school-age children probably do want to have parents encourage some of the cost but not all parents are able to afford that cost and so you have to be cognizant of the fact that public school should be a level playing field. You don't want students,

children, you know, when children reminded of their means when they enter a public school public school should provide equal opportunity for everyone that's one of the partners of every mission statement of every school I visit is equal opportunity for every student to achieve their goals and so I think we need to be cognizant of differences so acute social economic status difference of means in terms of availability of parents of those affected would honor the late bus. Certain things that you wouldn't maybe immediately think of as being exclusionary end up being exclusionary because of the circumstances of some students. What are some of the ways in which the district can begin to deal with these kinds of differences so we are in a situation where having the additional debt service does impact our budget in a way that keeps money from being able to transfer being transferred into other funds so any additional services that we would provide would have to come from somewhere. Whether or not we become soon eligible for certain grant programs that would be wonderful, but short of that, it's going to be a hard road. As I said, because I'm not yet on the board. If I do get the privilege of serving on the board. I will be privy to a lot more of the nitty-gritty of those budgets right now. Some things you have to submit a right to know request. Some things are public documents are just harder to get. When I was doing a lot of the analysis for the new high school and in the dead in the budgets of the district. I went back to 1987 went back to 97 budget. Like stated 87 enrollments are projected growth and that was a lot of documentation to get my hands on. It took a while and you know everyone I big favors from everyone who would go to the offices and make photocopies for mayor scan things it just it's hard for people who are going to meetings all his hymen and are looking at the budgets on the district age to kinda know where the money would come from. If we were to try to provide additional services and I imagine that there's some listeners out there thinking, no wondering how it was that you know you decided to turn your energies to this in any way that that is involving many different no time commitments rights of all of the research that he did the kinds of analysis that you did. I attending these meetings was there something about public education that that pulled you in. I have time to give the maybe six such a short answer, but because I care. I just thought I'd I learned I got to the point where I learned enough about what was happening not only our district but across our state across our country and in a budgets had been slashed going back to the 2000 9010 were talking like tens of thousands of dollars leaving our budgets resign about people in the words of the transit fundraising and just schools, not having the capacity to offer services they really want to offer one of the greatest services, a school district and offers family support. Sometimes, when you would have additional parent-teacher conferencing home visit, the sorts of things we just don't have the resources right now to do as much of that is maybe we would like to we actually I think the district is a great job because they send teachers out to certain neighborhoods in and asked parents here, meet the teachers find out more about activities in the school get engaged really the ideas get the community engaged and so right now because I can't see the nitty-gritty of how decisions are made and why funds need to be allocated as they are. I can't answer that question fully. But I would like to know I would care to know, and I

would I would care to try to fix that for for kids were really feeling excluded, involuntarily excluded you listening to Buckner occupied here on WPB you working to take a brief break and come back and talk about the proposed housing site appends comments welcome back you listening to Buckner occupied here on WPB you Lewisburg in the studio with me is Aaron Jablonski and Aaron before the break we were talking about issues of of equity indifference within the district and and I think we wanted to talk a little bit more about specifically the issue of access to free and reduced lunch right so things that go along with the students ability to express their their need for free and reduced lunches. A lot of paperwork and need to have your parents help you fill that out so sometimes even kids who would be eligible for free and reduced lunch kids who would be eligible eligible for reduced activities fees who would be eligible for grant for the AP test all the sorts of things they're not getting that assistance either because it's a difficult form to complete the not even aware maybe that the form or the grant or the assistance existence and so I visited schools actually had visited a school in the Lancaster area who the principal informed me that even though only 30% of his students were seeking free and reduced lunch, his guess was the closer to 50% would qualify, but that the parents would not permit them to submit the paperwork whether he didn't. He was speculative issues of pride or issues of not wanting the government to know you know part of personal means, but I still don't really like those programs because your your reminding every time you make another form for a student to complete because they need assistance to for a fee that is associated with school your reminding on your reminding them of their meat yet, their means, in a way that is discouraging and again can be excluding so I just not a fan not a fan of of asking kids to be reminded of their means. Some think they're going along with that issue of socio-economic status and that the next issue you may want to speak about was the penthouse, the availability of affordable housing in Union County right this is an issue that came up meant maybe some of you saw the deal and put out an article a while back about whether or not this would impact the school district and my sense from Iowa was at one meeting, where the school board made posting about and also I saw that Dr. Drucker was quoted and is hard to make an estimate how much of an impact to the potential for approximately 40 kids were sure they they do have a certain dollar amount per student, but there's not much residual cost meaning adding a few extra students to each rate doesn't actually cost the district the full amount per student. There's some fixed costs like debt service to just cover every year. No matter how the students are enrolled in your in your schools so penthouse, that was a hard issue to follow. I will say upfront I was. I am very much in favor of access to affordable housing in a welcoming community giving kids access to good education. I was not a fan of how dense it was, in terms of no yard space so I was concerned that it was a lot of people know per acre. Not as dense as a city but we aren't in a city. I also don't like the stigma is Asian of the address. Once people started to be opposed to that construction that you know that development it was was going to be stigmatization of the address. Everything else about a person's means is typically private. You can look up who's on Medicaid. You can't look up who's on welfare, but an address can be

revealing in the sense that is soon as you say I live in such and such location. There is the opportunity for a judgment, there's the opportunity for revealing some thing about yourself that maybe you didn't want everyone to know, so there is some of that I would like to see the Housing Authority, which I know probably does not have the means used are like to see them actually not billed for bedroom units. I would rather see families in need of four bedroom homes having homes whether single-family or duplex, I would still like to see affordable housing on that site. I think a lower density may be a difference a different look and set up within the streets. How wonderful would it be if one of those disused ugly alleys could be reclaimed for playground or yard, some green space in the area some safe playing space rather than potholes and and gravel diagnosis is a matter of seeing what happens now because I think the Housing Authority has to wait until they have a new opportunity for funding right before they can resubmit a new land development plan that is a very those very hard issue and I had to say would hurt me the most in terms of just being aware of the whole thing was how negative some of the comments that came out were and help lead out in the press. The don't think some of the media. Did anyone any favors putting out articles of a certain nature that many people are now aware of right and anything you know if you got the issue came up right people became aware that there was this proposal, which should been approved to infect build housing and and things went hyperbolic very quickly right and a and a and you don't. People have particular kinds of you very racist in class associations with the phrase public housing by even though our project got exactly even though that's not what's going to be built right talking about, you know, relatively middle income housing workforce housing workforce housing exactly right, not section 8. Not anything else you have to, you know, in fact prove a certain range of income which is all within the living way, which even rash guards wealth living wage. We should to be living wage yet is that even that was missed was key to get differently in in different sources of information that you're looking on Facebook. It could have been anybody from anywhere. Moving on welfare right if you follow the Housing Authority was putting out it was workforce housing. It was for people making junk under the median income, 26 to 52. It was the right exactly and if you then looked at some combination about was coming out in the daily item or other local press immersing even tighter different version of who would be eligible to be in those homes and so honestly I think after all is said and done, no one probably had complete information. Right no one had everything laid out exactly that said okay these are exactly how many of this exactly how any people. We expect to inhabit those units, all that sort of thing. There was a lot of estimation and you just don't know because the Housing Authority thinks one scenario will play out, and then people were opposed as entire different early different scenario that they believe will play out and there were a lot of people on the fence for different reasons and many good reasons. Some people believe in mixed-use okay so here's an issue that was brought up by someone who was I think on if two people getting on the fence facing opposite directions. Let's just say that was the situation and the issue that was brought up was that everyone would like to see some sort of mixed use on that site commercial, residential, and a range of incomes right.

However, a developer coming in and wanting to make upper income would say upper income townhomes on the frontage of N. 15th St. may not want to allow some of those units to be assigned as affordable housing because there is the perception that would lower property values of the either homes perception perception is perception. But in many ways. Perception is real right that could become reality. If enough people talk about it in its and its stigmatized roots opposed strongly or whatever it could become just as inflammatory as the situation we just on the 2.2 acres so right enemies certainly unit that's that's the way if you want to be opposed to public housing. That's one of your primary arguments right and has been historically in this country ever sense of the government began funding housing projects is that communities white communities in particular had a very intense history of opposing all kinds of public housing projects on the basis ostensibly that it will reduce property values but really to pursue penal whole range of both races dense and classist agendas exactly exactly know the there's so many potential solutions anything. One potential solution and that has not been explored enough is to get some planners in here get some some planners involved in the conversations that would that this implanted that were given a little bit of clout. Meaning given respect and that their opinions were listen to because if you talk to. I talked to for professional planners when I was doing my research for the high school move and all of them said this is not this is not the way we should be planning in that time in 2014. Know this is still not the way through planning and 2015 right we shouldn't hollow out downtowns. We should actually try to promote housing density in in a town center with access to shopping and amenities and discourage sprawl died so there's a very 90s model of sprawl that right and right we can start to maybe reclaim in and put more housing in our town center keep the foot traffic for the downtown businesses keep people close to amenities who would needed and think the best location for someone who may be a situation where their income does not allow a reliable car. Or, you know, not even caring when you spend money. The gas pump for people were to situation relate with a do think about him much as the user where they may not be able to have a reliable car laying next to a grocery store and a drugstore in a park right and you know be able to walk to downtown. That's an ideal location. If you're in an affordable housing development, that's far in the outskirts, which is often where Fort will housing has been built and your car is a known in disrepair with you tonight and amenities when you like a monsignor 90° outside, but not be one of the arguments that that at least I heard being made was that unity these people tonight and I'm thinking right on making quotations in the studio of these people I should be scattered right. In fact, they should be scattered around the area so that they can live in homes that are already up for sale, but again that that ignores all of these other issues that you're bringing up right. The fact that we might be talking about families who need walk places right rather than drive all the time to get to a place right access to groceries access to Nino playwright to play etc. so it depends on your interrelation of scattering. I think Satan taking Lynn town and the borough and you know the areas just around the giant and those so if you had sites like ice heads throughout the new hold of the whole Penn Commons area, not just at

2.2 acres Butler out and then some across Route 45 and some across route 15. I'm still talking about keeping in the core} very irate. It had happened in the patent is likely old go away on that codified again so we can will see what is have to see what the Housing Authority would submit next but I do think we need to respect planners, planners can usually service for a community. So here's a shout out for all-night diner friends. I completely respect what you do and I hope that you are listen to in the future so you know last few minutes can you give us a sense of what's what's ahead wins the election. What are you having any events in the in the coming months election so the election is first Tuesday of November every year, but they are there to be another candidates night it's going to take of October Sunday, October 20 step October 26 or so I made October 27, think, and so it that will be and I'm assuming will be again in the high school auditorium as we did before the primaries and admitted table asked her ask questions kind of knows sequentially and the point of that is just to get a sense of different people's opinions on particular issues district so actually the question of armed officers came up during candidates night before. The primary okay and I thought that it was more important to put resources towards addressing the student having the issue, find out I'd rather spend more money on guidance counselors in place. What I'm saying, you know, find out what issues that student is having, can they be helped. Is this you know something that their expensing whether it's depression from something that's disrupted their lives. Or maybe they're not feeling included school. Whatever the case might be, I think that may be the appropriate intervention and not always some disciplinary or police action questions came up about the new high school. I still do oppose the move to the new high school. However, we needed a new school, I would've just preferred to have seen us repurpose, renovate rather the existing school and found some other way to serve our our sports organizations. By having practice field facilities for them. What else is coming up September 17 there will be a public hearing regarding closing of the existing high school and that starts at three month comment. When people can provide input to the school board about whether or not the existing high school should be closed so everyone should know that they have the ability to go to that September 17 meeting in there without health 7 PM in the middle school, large instruction rooms. The basis school board meetings are held the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 7 PM Penn for middle school, large group instruction room and I am often alone may the press and usually some really nice people were being recognized for an award at the beginning, but they leave shortly after receiving a certificate I should. That's I'm I'm making light of it, but is it important thing you should sometimes attend if it's something on the agenda interests you. I would like to see the agendas in the minute sent out to people just ask, how can people find the agenda prior to meeting okay so if you'd like to find the agenda you go on the LA ST .us website and then you go to the school board and then you go to the data and then he gets like six clicks and you'll find it. It's pretty deep. If you want to know when it is and where it is. There's a different section of the website with a little calendar and you click on that and that goes to a new site and then you click on the day and invited that sentence okay yeah so I'm a person who pays attention and

sometimes even I miss agenda items so it's not may be as transparent as some people would like it to be because maybe sometimes you would like to go see when the procedures retired. I thought there'd be a huge turn. I think it's just so hard to know that those people are going to be recognized at a school board meeting. I think more people knew more people would show and we applaud them in and thank them for their years of service to the district will thank you in this been a real pleasure talking this evening. Thank you