

August 3, 2020

Recent posts from our county legislators and the County Executive regarding the transitional housing facility continue to imply that the school district was complicit and these posts continue to provide misleading information.

In late December, we heard rumors from several constituents that there were discussions at the county level to establish a transitional housing facility in Jericho. At the request of the school district, a meeting did in fact occur on January 13, 2020 with representatives from the Nassau County Department of Social Services (DSS).

The county never contacted us about this facility. At our request, a meeting was held and we were informed that a plan was being developed to place a transitional housing facility in Jericho. We were told the plan was many months and possibly years away from coming to fruition. At the time, there was no way DSS could predict the number of students placed in our schools because our numbers fluctuate. At that time, we had 36 homeless students residing in Jericho. Now we have 24.

We were assured that there would be public discussions organized by DSS and that the school district would be notified as plans developed and they would there upon notify the community. Neither took place. It was also requested that we maintain confidentiality regarding the plan until the plan was further along in its development.

Once again, we called DSS when we saw the construction begin at the Hampton Inn and only then were we informed that the plan had been implemented by DSS with the approval of Nassau County.

The ultimate decision to have transitional housing at the site is not a Board of Education or Jericho School District decision. Our job is to make sure that every student lawfully residing in Jericho, regardless of economic status, race, or ethnicity, is educated to the best of our ability.

~Hank