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To: Mayor Keith Wagoner
From: Danny and Linda Noel
RE: Library collaboration
Date February 25, 2017

We were encouraged to see a mediator at last night's meeting. She did an excellent job of keeping people focused and civil.

After the meeting, we brain-stormed some ideas that might be helpful:

1. We keep hearing an underlying dispute regarding a take-over by the county of the city library. There are some who have the notion that this is a county-wide rather than a Sedro Woolley School District project. Perhaps renaming the collaboration the Sedro Woolley District Library rather than the Central Skagit Library District would help clarify for all users just who the target population is.
2. Location is a huge issue. We personally don't use the public library here in Sedro Woolley and prefer the Anacortes library as the parking is better, among other things. While I like the old Skagit administration building across the street from the municipal building, Danny prefers the Market building. Both have ample parking and are located away from taverns and other potential problem areas. The "vibe" of the Skagit building has a Century 21 optimism that would appeal to teens.
3. As far as funding is concerned, according to their website, Burlington built or remodeled their library of 22,000 sq. ft. for 6.9M. Of course, their project was done in 2010, but with careful planning, no "favored" deals and leaning on people to contribute "sweat equity" could cut costs. Years ago, we pledged \$100.00 per year to fund the oncology center at United General. Perhaps future employers of students benefiting from a strong library system would donate support. When I taught in San Jose, the three big manufacturing plants around my school paid for our automotive and metal shops. Boeing employs a number of city residents. Danny and I were able to get donated printers and computers from them for our schools after proving that point. There are still a few foundations that provide funding for collaborations among public entities. When I wrote grants for the high school library, I tried to bring in as many departments as possible so I could prove the number of students being served by the funding. Could the school district benefit from curricular support thereby offering financial assistance for providing STEM, or as we prefer. STEAM materials? Knowing this community, when the goal is universally accepted, nothing will stop them from achieving it.

In closing, we are enthused that the project seems to be moving forward. We are happy to see a more civil discourse taking place. We hope that it will pick up steam and move ahead rigorously.