



## The Avalon Home and Land Owners Association

### RECENT AHLOA PAPERS

#### FEBRUARY 2009 – JOHN MCCORRISTON, PRESIDENT, AVALON BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION

The School and the Library work well together with the latter using school facilities for 6 to 14 hours a day. The School Board has agreed to allow the library to use the school computer room during the summer. School equipment will be removed and will be replaced with library equipment. The school has had shared service agreements with Sea Isle City, Middle Township, and the Borough of Avalon in place for many years. The Superintendent is shared with Stone Harbor as are kindergarten facilities and the Curriculum Director.

The per pupil cost is based by the state on the bond referendum that was obtained to build the facility. Although the bond costs \$500,000 annually, and \$600,000 is recouped from the library; recouped funds are not taken into consideration by the State. Stone Harbor, Avalon and Wildwood Crest were #2 or 3 in the list of test results in the State.

There was a regionalization study carried out 19 years ago. Avalon and Stone harbor have the lowest school taxes in the state. They have been fighting amalgamation with Middle Township since that would drastically increase school taxes paid by Borough residents. The County Superintendent has made several visits to the Board and has never said he wants to close the school, although outsiders want to see that happen.

The Stone Harbor Board of Education has agreed to look into the feasibility for further shared services or possible consolidation. At odds are teacher contracts. Avalon teachers are more senior, and therefore are paid higher salaries. The biggest issue if amalgamation occurs is what happens to the teachers. Two or three members of the Avalon faculty may retire in the next few years.

Consultants have been given a list of parameters to review. A draft of their comments will be available in mid March. A model might have pre K to 4h Grade in one facility and Grades 5 to 8 in another. This would open up classroom space that could be used by the Library.

Mike Matt read letters that AHLOA is sending to Avalon Board and to the County Superintendent. In response John McCorristin indicated that busing in Avalon was a courtesy and is operated under contract with Middle Township who control the size of the buses used.