

Parents say they want improved football team rooms

BY TOM SMITH
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When the decision was made to put up football field lights, the plan approved by the Farmington school board included some extras. One of those extras was to build team rooms at all three high schools, to give players a chance to regroup at halftime.

This fall, the lights and team rooms are in place. But, as parent Doug Gress of the Farmington Football Backers told board members Tuesday, those rooms aren't nearly completed or even in use at all three schools. "We hope the Farmington school board will discuss these concerns and make the team buildings as useful as intended," said Gress, reading a letter he and his wife, Denise, wrote. "As they stand today, we understand that football coaches at two of the high schools have said they will not use the team rooms. . . . That fact should indicate to the board that the shortcomings

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Doug Gress
—Parent

in the team buildings are real. Right now, the team buildings are a reminder that our tax dollars were not spent wisely."

The Gresses' letter addressed a number of problems with the team building at Farmington High School.

Concerns include lack of water, rest rooms (except for portable facilities), benches, soundproofing and white boards (used by coaches to diagram plays). In addition, they listed problems such as poor ventilation, inadequate walkways to and from the facility and limited access into each room.

School board Treasurer Jack Inch sympathized with the Gresses and other football backers.

"If they're not used," Inch said, "it's a very bad waste."

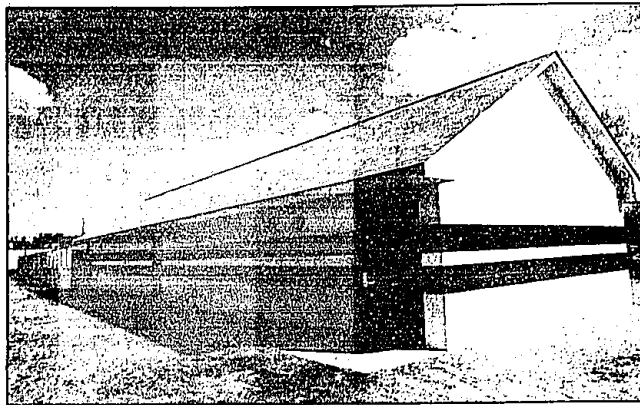
Superintendent Bob Maxfield assured Doug Gress that the concerns would be examined, with a response prepared as soon as possible.

After the meeting, Maxfield said the decision to put up the shells was almost an afterthought of the field lights issue.

"Team rooms, when they were originally agreed to, were to be bare bones," Maxfield said. "They weren't designed to be clubhouses. But now, people are forgetting that."

James Myers, the district's executive director for kindergarten-through-12th-grade student services, said any problems with the team buildings will be addressed before the current football season gets too far along. "It's not finished yet," Myers said. "They'll have some kind of seating in there and some kind of (white boards) in there."

Myers said the idea for team rooms was to put up a place where players could "collect and gather their thoughts" in proximity to the playing field. Teams previously either huddled near the field or made the long walk into the high school between the



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Improve: Some parents complain that the new clubhouse at Farmington High School's athletic fields are inadequate.

into the high school between the

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