

College Preparatory Academy. This consolidation was part of the SSD's decision to help save money regardless of the negative impact on parents and their children.

The consolidation process was poorly planned and showed a lack of leadership from SSD Staff. The middle school students were packed into an elementary school that lacked the facility and mandatory needs for middle school students who were mingling in the hallways with elementary students. Also, SSD failed to take into consideration that R.E. Davis Elementary was identified as a Priority One (Failing) School by the S.C. Department of Education.

When the academy was created and given its name, I thought this academy would serve as an inspiration and role model for all middle schools in the SSD. I thought every effort would be made to ensure that the school would receive the technical support and staffing for all students to accelerate academically and athletically. A healthy mind and a healthy body go hand-in-hand.

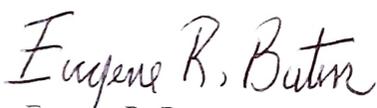
To meet the needs of an outstanding athletic program SSD Trustees saw the need to build an athletic facility for middle school students. The lack of a football stadium had tarnished the image of the academy and disrespected parents and students. One year the academy field a football team with only thirteen players. Not only were they outperformed by middle school teams with 30 to 40 players, but they were also further humiliated because they were laughed at for having mix match football jerseys without the name of the new academy.

The new SSD Superintendent and Board of Trustees have been given a chance to show their love for Jesus's children and do what their predecessors failed to do. God has blessed this endeavor. Not only is the money for this undertaking still available (The \$400,000 in capital projects that have been allotted for the stadium) the need to purchase land to build the stadium on is not necessary. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. The current football field at Mayewood School can be renovated to make it the envy of all middle school football stadiums in the SSD. God is good.

As I advocate for R.E. Davis College Preparatory Academy as the County Councilman who represents District 7, I expect the same enthusiasm from Trustee Shery White who also represents District 7.

The capital project to build a stadium for academy is not a "dead project." It is an "unfinished project" that is still in demand. There is no "expiration date" on doing God's work.

Sincerely,


Eugene R. Baten