

Why We Oppose Moving Robotics to Lone Pine/Bloomin' West...

1.

Major **SAFETY CONCERNS** about sharing a building with **Preschoolers** especially because Robotics uses a fully-equipped machine shop.

2.

The space being offered is **INADEQUATE**, it hinders growth to both Robotics and possible future State of Michigan Universal Pre-K programs.

3.

It's **INEQUITABLE**; it's **TOO FAR** for many students, parents & mentors (**ALL VOLUNTEERS**) and will drastically reduce many people's ability to participate.

4.

Robotics has been **SHUFFLED AROUND & UNDER-APPRECIATED**; BHS is behind nearby districts who've invested and built new state-of-the-art STEM Centers.

5.

Robotics is a **HUGE SELLING POINT** for BHS, bringing new students & recognition, and yet it continues to lack crucial support from the Administration & School Board.

More detailed information about each of these issues on next page...

1. Major SAFETY CONCERNS about sharing a building with Preschoolers

- Robotics is year-round with intense competition seasons – Fall for Middle School Teams, Winter for the High School Team
 - A wide variety of people of all ages will be in and out of the building all the time, often when preschool is in session
 - Robotics uses a full machine shop with heavy machinery, electrical equipment, welding, and more — all of which require adequate ventilation, safety precautions and training
 - Early morning and late evening truck/trailer loading and delivery of heavy equipment through garage door access
 - Possible hazardous conditions for preschoolers — noise, debris, and paint/chemical fumes might interfere with normal day-to-day activity (*students working with those materials wear masks and have been trained on proper use*)
-

2. The space being offered is INADEQUATE and hinders growth

- Inadequate space to house all Middle- and High School Robotics participants in the same building — over 300 kids
 - The High School Team requires a practice field with bleachers, a full machine shop, and a space for meetings and meals, etc.
 - The ceiling has to be at least 18.5' high to have enough clearance; Lone Pine's roof is short *by several feet* and would have to be raised, an expensive proposition
 - We often host teams from across Oakland, Macomb, & Wayne counties (*Outreach is a huge part of what we do!*)
 - With Michigan advocating for Universal Preschool, there might be a need to expand BHS's Preschool program
 - Sharing the building will prevent the Preschool from expanding, or it will mean kicking Robotics out and relocating it AGAIN!
-

3. INEQUITABLE location; TOO FAR away from the center of the district

- Robotics serves all-grades across the entire district, Robotics should be centrally located
 - Moving to the far western side of the district creates barriers to participation for many students, parents, and mentors
 - The success of this program RELIES 100% on volunteer participation, and many volunteers have already expressed concern, telling us they will not be able to come to the shop as often, and some, not at all
 - This will reduce participation, slow program momentum, and restrict access to STEM education for many of our students
-

4. Robotics has been SHUFFLED AROUND and UNDER-APPRECIATED

- BHS is woefully behind in its STEM/STEAM offerings, yet Robotics has grown steadily despite this lack of support
 - Nearby districts (many with fewer resources than BHS) have invested in brand new state-of-the-art STEM Centers
 - This move to Lone Pine means **Robotics has been forced to move 4 times in 10 years!** (and none of the locations ever met the program's minimum requirements)
 - MOVE 1: Andover to Farm Activities Building (FAB) - district invested in FAB only after Robotics was gone
 - MOVE 2: FAB to Lahser - district invested in Lahser after Robotics was gone
 - MOVE 3: Lahser to Franklin - district committed to bond allocation for Robotics at Franklin, then reneged, but plans to renovate Franklin for the Maintenance Department after Robotics is gone
 - MOVE 4 (PROPOSED): Franklin to Lone Pine/Bloomin' West
 - **Robotics has been moved over & over again, told it's temporary AND promised a better space, but with NO REAL PLAN**
-

5. Robotics is a HUGE SELLING POINT for BHS

- Our Robotics Program is a multi-award winning, internationally-known program, with a worldwide following
 - Our teams consistently reach the highest levels of competition & recognition at district, state, and international tournaments
 - **HIGH SCHOOL:** *Bionic Black Hawks* are in the FRC Hall of Fame – 1 of only 33 teams worldwide (in over 100 countries)
 - **MIDDLE SCHOOL:** 2 of our FTC Teams, the *Purple Protons* and *IntergalacTECH*, made it to Worlds and competed against much older students from other nations
 - **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:** 1 of our FLL Teams, *G.E.K.O.T.*, earned 2 United States Patents for inventing a new collision-avoidance safety system for eScooters, which is now being developed and soon to be put into production by *Razor*
 - Robotics gives students, especially young women, an incredible advantage when applying to prestigious universities, for scholarships, corporate internships, and eventually in their chosen careers
-