

Raquel Tolin  
Farmland Elementary School  
Mrs. Weissenburger

If I were Mayor I would get everyone to respect the decision to build a playground instead of a skate park in the open lot. I would hold a public hearing with a representative from Parks and Planning and show the advantages of having a playground and the reasons behind choosing it over the skate park. The people who wanted a skate park might be angry. I would explain to them that the playground would have something for everyone. There would be rides, a fenced area for animals, a place for knitting and reading for older people, small equipment for younger kids, bigger equipment for elementary age kids, and a place where teenagers could safely gather. I would let the skateboard community know we could consider building a skate park in the future.

We would then have a question and answer time to address specific concerns. This would help people who wanted the skate park understand better why the decision was made.

Skateboarding could still be part of the playground by creating a skateboard club. The club could meet at set times at the playground and special skateboard days could be set throughout the year for skateboarding on the playground.

I would build excitement by having an opening day ceremony! At shops and restaurants people could write suggestions for the name of the playground such as "A Playground for Everyone." After gathering the responses, one would be selected and announced at the ceremony!

At the end of the ceremony I would say again that this will be a place for many interests and ages including skateboarding!