
[CE SBAC] Meeting feedback from 3/15

1 message

Elizabeth Eames Biermann <eeames@gmail.com>
To: cesbac@capeelizabethschools.org

Thu, Mar 16, 2023 at 12:30 PM

Hello,

I attended the SBAC meeting on 3/15 and I really appreciated hearing the presentation from the current School Board Chair Elizabeth Scifres. Clearly the SBAC is putting an impressive amount of time and effort into understanding the history of the project, including the historical context provided by Ms. Scifres. The community is lucky to have someone with institutional knowledge of what transpired with respect to school facilities discussions during the past decade.

However, I was concerned that a member of the community interrupted Ms. Scifres' presentation to give an inaccurate and confusing speech about the history as he saw and remembered it. This community member did not speak during the public comment period, but rather interrupted Ms. Scifres purportedly to share "insider" knowledge of his own involvement in prior meetings about school infrastructure. The information he was trying to speak about is all public record, available to the committee without his interruption.

I think the work of the SBAC remains more credible if it requires community members to refrain from comment until the public comment period and allows its invited speakers and committee work to proceed without interruption. During the course of the meeting, it appeared as though non-members of the committee are going to be allowed free reign to participate in the SBAC meetings as though they themselves are on the committee. I would never speak outside of the provided times, and just because members of the community feel entitled to interrupt with their own "expertise" I think there is value in protecting the credibility of the important work of the SBAC and requiring spectators to comment only during the time reserved for them or if specifically requested by the SBAC.

Thank for your consideration,

Elizabeth Biermann
19 Trundy Road

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