



Susana Measelle Hubbs <susana.hubbs@capeelizabeth.org>

[CE SBAC] Follow up/correction Re: Feedback after narrowing down our options

1 message

Eliza <eliza.matheson@gmail.com>

Sat, Feb 17, 2024 at 4:43 PM

To: cesbac@capeelizabethschools.org

I wanted to follow up on some stats I misstated - we have almost equal parts seniors over 65 and young people under 18. The 8% of seniors were those who applied for property tax assistance/relief. A relatively small percentage, while our under 18 population is quite high compared to state and national averages.

Again - fixed income does not equal low income and conflating the two does a disservice to both populations and also insults folks who actually are low income AND fixed income.

Sent from my iPhone - please excuse typos!

Pronouns: she/her

On Feb 17, 2024, at 4:15 PM, Eliza Matheson <eliza.matheson@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear SBAC,

Thank you, again, for all of the time and energy that you have put into this work. As all the meetings have shown, this work is hard. It's complicated, it has many stakeholders, opinions, options, and considerations. When Dr. Record mentioned that there are some loud voices and some quiet voices and all deserve to be heard, I was reminded why we're VERY lucky to have him as a leader in our schools.

I know that not one of you on the committee doesn't take this seriously. I have to agree with some of the comments that the blatant disregard for G felt premature, given the feedback you received from the community. What was brought up by many was keeping G on the table and using it as a North Star of sorts; a master plan. I believe we should have kept G, E, and C on the table - *especially* given how the tax information had come out so recently, *especially* how the feedback had come back. We should have two new build options and one reno option for consideration for the final three; not the other way around.

I still believe that after all we have been through, with the many consultants, presentations, owners reps, expert opinions, architectural firms, and hard numbers - renovation remains a waste of taxpayer money, long term and short term.

A few requests:

- When we are presenting information going forward, can we please put it into **monthly** terms? Most of us who have mortgages pay our taxes monthly, not annually or semi annually in checks at town hall. **Please consider showing information that way.** Also, many fixed income seniors calculate their spending on a monthly basis as well - as I've mentioned before, my mother is 78, on a fixed income here in Cape, was a recipient of the tax assistance in town (so yes - **actually** very low income), and when we talk over her finances, we talk on a monthly basis. This is helpful information. And I don't mean to be insensitive, but please do not conflate fixed income with low income. They are not the same.
- Please show **operational savings over time.**

- Please continue to show what it would be like if we "maintain course" meaning what Option A essentially would have been, even though it is not a viable solution.

Eight percent of our town is over 65. Yet close to 25% are under 18 and **cannot vote in their own interests**. The schools benefit 100% of the population either directly through education or indirectly via property value. And when houses with 4br 2.5bath are sold? They are going to families. Not single people, not retirees. Families with children, in migration from all over the country. And that's amazing! It keeps our town vibrant, community oriented, and relevant. Our mixed age brackets make for amazing community events, mentor programs, and intergenerational experiences. But we have to keep up with public education or we won't get families here. (I'll save my other emails about senior/workforce/affordable housing/ADUs for other committees, don't worry!)

Your thoughtfulness and hours of work are commendable and appreciated. This is a long slog. Thank you for bringing in the public as much as you have - it is very clear that you have wanted us along for the ride the entire time and we will continue to share feedback.

Have a nice week,
Eliza Matheson
270 Fowler Road

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