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[CE SBAC] Survey and options

1 message

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Mon, Feb 5, 2024 at 2:49 PM

To: cesbac@capeelizabethschools.org

Cc: cetowncouncil@capeelizabeth.org

Dear Committee Members:

I had an opportunity to look at the latest SBAC survey proposal. I was surprised at the lack of rigor associated with developing the responses.

I also am concerned that responses are generated through a QC code. First, many older citizens do not know how to use a QC code. Second, what will stop respondents from using multiple devices to enter multiple surveys? Third, many senior citizens are in warmer climates this time of year and are not even receiving mail.

Finally, you have had the gold standard of "surveys," a general election where the voters spoke unambiguously about the last price tag. The recent survey you did confirmed that the cost was the major stumbling block, and that a majority of voters will not support a project that results in a tax increase greater than 10%. Nonetheless, the Committee failed to establish a budget early on (thank you to those members who have recognized the importance of establishing a budget), and we are now faced with 5 of the 7 options developed by Harriman raising taxes beyond what the voters are likely to approve. I do not understand how putting out a public opinion survey, under the circumstances, will contribute to anything other than further division in the town. I encourage you to set a budget and evaluate options that are within a budget likely to gain public approval. Going forward with a project that results in a double digit tax increase that will not garner approval in November will only set the town back multiple years.

As always, thank you for your service to the community. I do appreciate your hard work.

Mary Ann Lynch

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