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[CE SBAC] Feb 1 Public Forum

1 message

Elizabeth Eames Biermann <eeames@gmail.com>

Tue, Jan 30, 2024 at 10:41 AM

To: cesbac@capeelizabethschools.org

Cc: CE School Board <cesb@capeelizabethschools.org>

Hello -

As we are about to have a presentation of the initial 7 options for the schools, I wanted to stress the importance of finding a solution that meets the needs of our teachers and students both now and for many years to come. The School Board ultimately will hear the **recommendation** from the SBAC, but the School Board can and should make choices that prioritize the needs of our district and the teachers and students in it.

I know there is a pervasive sentiment that the cost alone is determinative of what the community "will support". Implied in this sentiment is the **initial cost** to people's taxes - not the overall cost of a plan and/or capital improvement costs over the next 30-50 years for the schools. Please consider the costs and needs that extend beyond the next 5-10 years. Please consider what sort of **value** we get with a recommendation. For example, if the repair only option is \$75 million, but does not fix any of the other building deficiencies for the educational needs - it might be the cheapest option, but if we can spend \$100 million and meet many more education and programming needs, then the more expensive option is a better value, especially if it will serve our district for a greater number of years. The SBAC can't and shouldn't try to find the "magic" total number that the voters will support, they should find the option that the community and district can BUILD support around.

What someone is ultimately willing to pay is tied to what they are getting for their money. If the SBAC only speculates and focuses on some imagined number of "what voters will support" divorced from what the funding will actually get - you might lose all voters. I surely wouldn't vote for an expensive plan that doesn't go far enough in meeting current and future needs - and I wouldn't expect the School Board to either.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Biermann
19 Trundy Road

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