



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

[CE SBAC] Survey

1 message

Becky Brosnan <becky.brosnan@gmail.com>
To: cesbac@capeelizabethschools.org

Fri, Mar 22, 2024 at 12:37 PM

Hello and thank you for volunteering your time on the SBAC. I listened in to the Communications meeting this week and I am writing with some concerns.

As many others mentioned, I think the upcoming survey really needs to be offered online and it needs to include long-term costs.

I am sure this is not your intention, but the impression I've been getting is that the input received from parents of school-aged kids is not getting the weight and attention it deserves. I get the sense from some SBAC members that parents are being written off as biased towards new construction because our kids are in the schools, and therefore our opinions shouldn't be taken as seriously as others in town. Otherwise, why would a survey be sent only through the mail during April vacation? Why would long-term costs not be included in SBAC communications? Why would the ample feedback favoring Option G after Harriman's presentation not push the needle and keep that option moving forward? Why would some SBAC members imply that we're too dumb to understand what the costs really mean, so we must not ACTUALLY want Option G?

In reality, the opinions of parents should count the most, because we stand to lose the most if something bad happens with these schools. Our lives stand to be disrupted the most if our kids need to learn out of temporary facilities, potentially including facilities that aren't even in our town. It also just so happens that our opinions align very well with what the EXPERTS have been telling us - that two new schools would be the best solution from a safety, security, educational, and value perspective. I feel some members of the SBAC are ignoring the results of the school assessment, despite the town now having paid two architects who came up with the same conclusion. Why did we hire them if we just want to pick an arbitrary tax increase percentage and see how much school we can get for it?

The financial reality of dealing with this problem the right way is a hard pill to swallow, but it's not the fault of the kids in school or their parents or teachers or custodians or administrators. It's the fact that despite knowing for decades that these schools would not last forever, the town didn't do any financial planning or saving to replace them.

I truly do sympathize with everyone who is concerned about a tax increase, but if we don't address the schools properly now, we will be right back here again, needing more money before we know it. It is BECAUSE I am concerned about wasting money that I don't want to throw good money after bad.

At a minimum, I hope Option E is put forward, and that the SBAC turns its attention away from surveys and straw polls and towards communicating the very real needs of the schools and the very real reasons we must act accordingly. The needs are what they are, and having been well informed of those needs by experts, I believe the SBAC's job is to help the citizenry of Cape Elizabeth understand and accept those needs.

Thank you,

Becky Brosnan

Under Maine's Freedom of Access law, documents - including e-mail - about town/school department business are classified as public records and may be subject to disclosure.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to cesbac+unsubscribe@

capeelizabethschools.org