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## [CE SBAC] Cape Elizabeth School Building Advisory Committee "Comment from meeting 3/7"

1 message

**Cape Elizabeth School Building Advisory Committee** <cesbac@capeelizabethsbac.com> Sat, Mar 9, 2024 at 9:18 PM  
Reply-To: nkathleena@gmail.com  
To: cesbac@capeelizabethschools.org

From: Nancy [nkathleena@gmail.com](mailto:nkathleena@gmail.com)  
Subject: Comment from meeting 3/7

### Message Body:

It was so late the other night, I thought it best to send a separate note.

I think the committee is doing so well and is following a good process. The thoroughness of the presentations and thoughtfulness of the feedback is exceptional.

I was a Project Manager for over 20 years, with the last several years focusing on Change Management, which drives the practice of delivering change to stakeholders. But I was also responsible for building and leading a cohesive, well functioning project team. Both aspects very much a "people focused" process. I can't help but view all of these topics through those lenses.

1. Former bond and the issue with estimates: With two options on the table estimated for around the same amount, people will be asking why they are getting so much less for about the same amount. Lack of transparency around this can impact the perceptions of people. There needs to be an explanation for it in a Q&A, including statement that had that bond passed, the cuts that would have been made to the design and what this team is doing to prevent it from happening again. If you do not explain, then trust issues could build over time.
2. 1934 building.....as it has been stated that the building would be turned back to the town, what happens to it is not your issue to debate or solve.....unless your stated objectives require you so make those decisions. This should go on an "out of scope" document as an item that will not be discussed or debated. Save your team time for project team issues.
3. High school item that has been left in: In the circles I move in, there was a lot of concern about why the HS items when the focus should be on the other schools. In the presentation on item had been left in, but there was no discussion in committee if it should be left in the project or prioritized in the alternate funding that was discussed previously. If it is that important, a required enhancement and can be funded otherwise, why have it in a plan that isn't even approved?
4. Survey: if CE has 8800 voters, how many responses need to be received to support confidence that an across the board representation was received? There was a conversation about asking a direct question on the survey asking which option the respondent would support. It was mentioned using that result to inform the decision for the final option. (I may have misunderstood intention on that, but it is what I came away with from what the person said). So if there are 500 surveys submitted of 8800 voters, will that adequately represent the whole town? Are they most likely to be submitted by school parents? Probably, as they have a big stake in it and the school network will encourage parents to submit. Would it be the right thing to do to base committee decisions on a survey? No. Surveys should be used to ensure messages are being received, to gather questions, identify areas that still need refinement, gaps, concerns. They are not a voting mechanism, they are merely a pulse and a way to assess how your messages are being perceived and used to drive your ongoing communications. You should be very concerned about a low level of responses, of responses demographically lopsided. They should not ask anyone how they would vote.

4. Logistics in design: With a separate entrance for ES and MS, there will be complaints from parents who have students in each school. They will have to queue up to drop one off, then the other. Causing even more congestion on Scott Dyer. The design with the permanent ES entry across from Hill St is just undesirable overall. I come thru there around drop off time every day and I can't imagine navigating two lines of turnoffs in that area, plus the Hill St and Scott Dyer traffic mixed in. Please don't create a problem to solve another one.

5. Committee: Maybe it was just an off night, but things seemed testy last night. Even without seeing faces, I could hear irritation and frustration in some conversations, a lack of openness, and some defensiveness to others' opinions. I would just encourage everyone to act and respond to each other as a team working towards the same goal. You will have differing opinions at times, of course, but you are not adversaries. I hope there were some 1 to 1 conversations after to soothe out differences.

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