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[CE SBAC] Communication of tax increase

1 message

Gretchen Noonan <gnoonan77@gmail.com>

Thu, May 2, 2024 at 8:45 AM

To: cesbac@capeelizabethschools.org

Hi everyone-

I understand there's been some consternation about some communications that went out and wanted to weigh in. If individual committee members are going to put together documents that are then released to the public with meeting packets, then yes it's probably wise to have a standardized way to mark those. But, I don't think it's fair to single out one committee member's work as I've seen several instances of this happening (in fact, I was going to email you to share my concerns about the confusing "two year cumulative impact of revaluation and school concepts" spreadsheet, so I know there have been others just in the last few weeks.)

That said, I thought the visual of "how much might the proposed school projects cost you?" was the cleanest and clearest explanation I've seen. I would encourage you to refine it then use it as an official committee communication piece. Thank you to Caitlin for pulling this together.

One addition - there is no world in which we don't have to spend a significant amount of money on our schools. You really must work to eliminate this expectation from the collective brain of the community. PLEASE have someone calculate what sort of investment we'll have to make over the next five years if we don't select one of these school projects (if this doesn't already exist? I haven't seen it.) I know a number of important repairs have been on hold as we wait to see about the school project (hello roofs!). THIS is the number you should be starting with when calculating tax increases, NOT zero.

Hang in there,
Gretchen

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