



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

---

## [CE SBAC] School Building Project

1 message

---

**Jenn Edelmann Grymek** <jenn.edelmann@gmail.com>

Sun, May 5, 2024 at 8:48 PM

To: cesbac@capeelizabethschools.org

Cc: cesb@capeelizabethschools.org

To the SBAC,

My name is Jennifer Grymek. I live at [48 Spurwink Ave.](#)

Thank you for the countless hours you have invested in this process to find a solution to Cape Elizabeth's school buildings. The quantity of meetings (and length of meetings) that you have all sat through is astounding.

I'm writing to share my support of Option E.

I have been following this school building project closely since 2019. I was on the previous iteration of the School Building Committee.

After Harriman first introduced the seven options, I was very much an Option G supporter.

Building a new elementary and middle school at the same time is the most cost effective solution in the long term, because there are economies and efficiencies that you get when designing and constructing two new buildings in one project (i.e. the buildings can be designed to share one kitchen, there can be one mobilization cost for construction, etc.).

I know from looking at the results of the previous online feedback (not this latest mailed survey), that there were many other supporters for Option G.

At this point in the process, and as a compromise for not getting two new school buildings, I am an Option E supporter. It is the only reasonable choice.

Option E has the least impact on the current students and staff during construction, it will reset the clock for one of our three school buildings, and it will meet the educational needs for the middle school, because it will be designed with the staff (and hopefully student) input.

Options B and C are still 'kicking the can down the road'. Renovations have been done before on our elementary and middle school. Multiple times.

Looking at the results of the latest mailed survey, the majority of the respondents were Option E supporters.

I think it's safe to say that the school community will not vote for Options B and C. They will not vote to spend millions of dollars renovating the schools to help with a few educational needs, while disrupting the current students' education for multiple years. They will not vote for Options B and C because they understand that we will be right back here in a short amount of time, as renovations will not last as long as a new build.

Lastly, a recent public commenter asked what happens when the project balloons in cost unexpectedly.

As someone who has worked in the construction industry for twenty years as a structural engineer, I can confidently say that the risk for that happening is much higher in a renovation project, where you don't know what you will find when you start to open up walls. Option E is the least risky because the new building will be cost estimated at multiple steps along the way - the Schematic Design phase, Design Development phase, and Construction Document phase. You have a chance after each estimate to do value engineering and get your cost back on track.

With renovation projects, you don't have this option. You may find something unexpected during construction and you have to deal with it then.

I urge you to all come together and choose Option E.

Thank you.

--

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](mailto:cesbac+unsubscribe@capeelizabethschools.org)