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## [CE SBAC] Option E

1 message

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**Marianne Schuman** <marianneschuman@gmail.com>

Mon, May 6, 2024 at 6:54 PM

To: cesbac@capeelizabethschools.org

Dear Weary Members of the SBAC,

People have thanked you and everyone involved in the process but I want to acknowledge the proverbial blood, sweat, tears and hours extracted from your personal lives that you have dedicated to studying, listening, and agonizing over the important decision you are charged with making. I want to thank your families, friends, coworkers and neighbors who supported and encouraged you. It always takes a village.

Our schools have been a source of pride which have unified and rallied our community over the years. It's a major reason why people choose to live and raise their families in our town. If we want to continue to be healthy and thriving, it's time we acknowledge and take action on the investment necessary to ensure this continues.

I've listened to many residents speak ardently about the burden of the schools on themselves and others but most failed to mention the KIDS, instead they focused on their needs and wants. As adults, our main charge is to raise the next generation. Some claimed that all that is needed to educate kids is good teachers and that the environment is irrelevant. I could cite multiple psychological and sociological studies that would say otherwise.

I find it discouraging when members of the community cite financial pressures as their reason for dissent but at the same time talk about prioritizing home repairs which may or may not be necessities. The schools are a necessity. It's clear to me that a large population of residents are concerned with their own capital investment (their homes) over community investment (our schools).

With that being said, I am an ardent supporter of investing in our schools and feel that **Option E** is the best choice. I'd like to tell you a bit more about why.

I believe Option E is the best decision for long term investment in both people and capital and causes the least amount of disruption for this vulnerable student population and their teachers. The middle school years are a cauldron of social, emotional and psychological growth vigorously stirred by the hormones of puberty. Add a dose of post pandemic troubles and you have a heady and troublesome brew. Add in an outdated facility with security and safety issues, classrooms designed for the Industrial Age and built as cheaply as possible to house the Boomer population, the result is unhappy teachers, students, parents, and staff. I have not spoken to a single person who thinks CEMS is currently meeting anyone's needs. Many parents have told me they regret choosing CE schools. Houston, we have a problem.

To me, Option E is the clear choice and I am frustrated by exaggerations of what it's trying to accomplish. I've heard the use of a car analogy relating the proposal to the want of buying a luxury vehicle. Option E is not a luxury middle school, it's a Honda - reliable, efficient and functional for years to come.

For those who are not willing to support any of the options, we need to think outside the box.

A former CE School Superintendent stated that high schools are the most expensive schools to provide. We chose not to join a regional school department in the 90s but maybe it's time to revisit the idea and consider vouchers to attend other high schools. We can ascertain if neighboring schools, public and private, would accept our students and at what cost. This puts the identity of our town at risk but everything has tradeoffs.

Another idea mentioned by a resident is to become a private academy like Thornton and many others in Maine. We could pay for our CE students and accept students from other areas including potentially boarding them. There are

other ideas, I'm certain.

Thank you for reading and considering my thoughts and opinions. I want our kids, our town, our state and our country to continue to succeed and thrive, not settle for just good enough.

Decades ago, my son wrote a college essay about the prevalence of "Good enough". He argued that good enough is not enough. It is not something to aspire to or to accept because it leads to mediocrity and stagnation. We advance in knowledge because we strive for better. Our kids deserve BETTER. Option E is BETTER in every important aspect including MONEY.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Marianne Schuman  
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