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## [CE SBAC] Support for Option E

1 message

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**Matthew Grymek** <mgrymek@gmail.com>  
To: cesbac@capeelizabethschools.org

Tue, May 7, 2024 at 3:58 PM

Hello SBAC Committee Members

My name is Matt Grymek, and I live at [48 Spurwink Avenue](#). I urge this committee to represent the best interests of Cape Elizabeth and endorse "Option E" as the best proposal to present to voters in November.

This committee has twice sought community input. The initial survey, although unofficial, revealed robust support for the construction of two new schools. However, despite this strong support, the committee swiftly dismissed the feedback and rejected the idea of rebuilding both the elementary and middle schools. In the more recent official survey, the community reiterated tremendous support for Option E, which, at minimum, involves constructing a new middle school. Yet, I am concerned that this committee will again opt to disregard overwhelming public support for proper long term planning and investment in favor of short-term concerns.

Having closely followed this committee's work since its inception, I have repeatedly observed certain committee members citing concerns about Option E's potential tax impact on residents and questioning its electability at the ballot box as grounds for their opposition. If this committee genuinely prioritizes the tax burden placed on Cape Elizabeth's residents and is sincere in wanting to propose a plan that has the highest chance of voter approval, then Option E is the only viable proposal.

I don't believe there is a single Cape Elizabeth resident who is unaware and unsympathetic to the tax burden that any of these proposals will place on residents, specifically those residents who are on fixed incomes or already struggling to make ends meet. My frustration, however, lies in the fact that certain members of our community are vehemently opposing any substantial investment in our schools, not because they're financially unable to bear the tax increase, but because they simply don't want to. These individuals feign concern about the tax burden that Project E will place on lower income residents, yet they turn a blind eye to the future tax burden on these same individuals if we choose inaction or settle for minimal investment now.

Both Option B and Option C, despite their considerable costs, still fall short of making any of the essential investments needed. Instead, they only accomplish passing the tax burden onto future taxpayers—a strategy that I believe is deliberate by some members of the community, but one that is ultimately detrimental to the long-term financial interests of most Cape Elizabeth residents. Option E is the only remaining plan on the table that provides a significant investment in our schools while ensuring a long-term return on investment for both the community and its taxpayers.

When considering the impact of any of these proposals on residents who are economically struggling, I believe that the same individuals who value our community and advocate for investing in its schools are also likely to prioritize investing in its people. As a town we can do two things at once. We can make essential investments in our schools while also ensuring resources are available for residents who may need financial support as a result of these investments.

Furthermore, when considering which option stands the best chance of voter approval, it's entirely false to assume that the higher the bottom line cost, the lower the likelihood of passage. As evidenced by the recent survey, there is minimal enthusiasm for Options B or C. Residents only backed these options because they represented the lowest-cost alternative in the survey. If there had been an option for doing

nothing, many of these respondents might have chosen doing nothing, mirroring what they'll likely do when voting on the issue in November, regardless of which proposal is on the ballot.

Alternatively, many of those who currently support Option E, despite their commitment to investing in our schools, will also not vote in favor of Options B or C in November. They recognize that these options cause maximum disruption to students, achieve minimal educational goals, and still require considerable public investment.

Thank you for your service to this committee and dedication to the future of Cape Elizabeth. I hope each of you will take pride in seeing the new Cape Elizabeth Middle School you helped make a reality by endorsing Option E.

Respectfully,  
Matt Grymek

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