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[CE SBAC] Yet another form letter

1 message

Nicole B. <nicole.boucher3@gmail.com>
To: cesbac@capeelizabethschools.org

Thu, May 9, 2024 at 1:39 PM

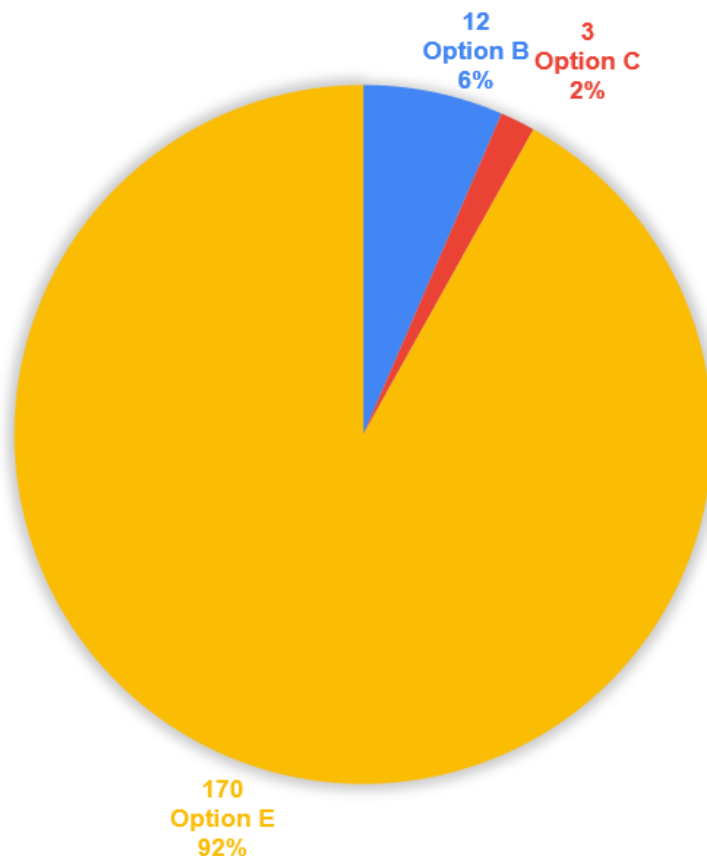
Oh wait, no, this one was written by me (without using any generative AI either, imagine that!)

[insert quotes where SBAC members decry about how they're "listening to the public" and there is an "organized effort" to discredit B, while they conveniently forget they were not only part of the effort to discredit the last referendum with misinformation but also colluding with the key players of that campaign even to this day]

(^ FYI, I didn't leave that accidentally, I just didn't feel the need to waste any more of my time pointing out the hypocrisy. I'm well aware this email will be forwarded to someone 13 seconds after it is received. Who's afraid of little old me?)

On February 15, 2024, you released the results of your "not a survey" feedback mechanism. I'll remind you that you can find that spreadsheet of 253 responses [here](#).

Since you're such a fan of data, I thought I'd share a graph of the anonymous responses.



Since you continued to need more data from the public, you sent out another, anonymous survey that provided such

insightful data as:

- 13% of respondents believe C is an excellent conceptual design (39% said poor)
- 16% of respondents believe B is an excellent conceptual design (38% said poor)
- **43% of respondents believe E is an excellent conceptual design (31% said poor)**

Look at that, Option E is perceived to be the "best" design of the three **and** also has the least "worst" responses.

You wanted your straw poll, and there it is.

I continually hear cries from SBAC members that "we're representing the public". Yet after personally attending hours of meetings, reading every piece of communication received, and digging into the **anonymous** surveys where people are free to express whatever they'd like... and I'm failing to gather any empirical evidence that Option B supporters are "the majority".

Did you know the 1993 renovation only passed by 184 votes?

You've received more emails than that in the last 5 days (you're welcome, btw)... a significant number of which pledged to not only vote NO on B if it hits the polls, but to **actively campaign against it**.

Supporters of Cape Elizabeth's school-improvement referendum cheer Tuesday night after learning that the measure had passed. From left are Ann Chapman, school committee chairwoman; Mike Roy of the building committee; and Charlie Greer, a school board member. The overhaul of the middle and elementary schools could begin as early as next summer.

Staff photo by Jack Milta

Cape narrowly approves school project

● In heavy turnout for an off-year election, the measure passes by only 184 votes out of nearly 3,800 cast.

By **KIM STROSNIDER**
Staff Writer

CAPE ELIZABETH — Residents voting in record numbers Tuesday narrowly approved an \$11.7 million school referendum, the most expensive building project in town history.

The referendum to renovate the town's middle and elementary schools passed by just 184 votes. The final total was 1,982 in favor and

1,798 against. The overhaul of the schools could begin as early as next summer.

A small crowd gathered in the high school gymnasium, the town's only polling place, to hear the results. The outcome was announced about 8:30 p.m.

Superintendent Constance Goldman cried with relief as she double-checked the tallies. Rosemary Reid, a school board member, ripped up a letter of resignation she had

planned to submit had the project failed. Others clapped.

More than half the town's registered voters cast ballots. Town Clerk Debra Lane said she believes that's a record in Cape Elizabeth for an election that did not include any national races.

Goldman said she was surprised by the referendum's narrow passage "because it so easily could have been the other way."

She said the referendum was "so tough and so emotional and so laden with cost" that the vote on it couldn't have been anything but close.

Local taxpayers will pay the

entire cost of the project, which is projected to climb to \$19.42 million when interest is considered.

Taxes for the owner of a \$153,000 home, the average in Cape Elizabeth, will increase by \$332 over the next two years. There is little jinx in the town to help absorb the cost of the project.

Despite the impact on the property tax rate, no organized opposition emerged during the referendum campaign.

School officials were worried, nonetheless, because a poll Sep-

Please see CAPE, Pa 10A

Please, enlighten me. How do you propose to make the 16% of B's supporters into large enough cheerleaders to convince the "poor" and "neutral" raters to vote for it? You won't. Of course, that's what the *actual* minority in this town wants—to continue the tradition of kicking the can down the road to avoid paying any dues toward the social contract.

We are angry and we are tired of being victims of the Baby Boom era. This article is from 1993... THIRTY-ONE years ago, when I was in SECOND GRADE. It is still true today. Let me point you to the quote: **"How, they ask, could such an affluent district allow its school buildings to deteriorate? And, if voters accept a hefty tax increase, can they be sure it won't happen again?"**

Cape Elizabeth's schools: Victims of Baby Boom era, '80s shortfalls

● The schools weren't built to last and maintenance wasn't always a top priority. That's why, officials say, the buildings are in such bad shape.

By KIM STROSNIKER
Staff Writer

CAPE ELIZABETH — Steven Connolly, a teacher, recalls the day he bumped into an acquaintance in a hallway of the middle school. The man was thinking about moving his family to Cape Elizabeth, but wanted to examine the much-touted schools first.

“What a dump,” the man told Connolly. He moved to another suburb instead.

While residents of one of Maine's wealthiest communities were busy building quality educational pro-

CAPE SCHOOL VOTE

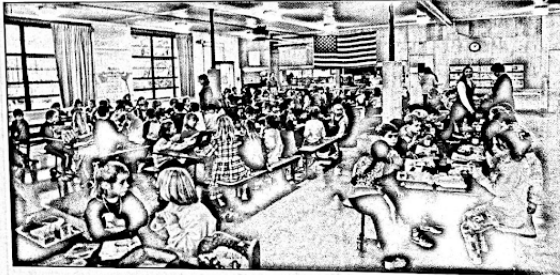
This is the first installment in a three-part series on the Nov. 2 Cape Elizabeth school referendum.

TODAY: The roots of the problem of deterioration in the middle school and Pond Cove,

the town's elementary school.

TUESDAY: The safety of children in the two schools has become a pivotal issue in the referendum.

WEDNESDAY: Parents discuss the importance and timing of the project.



First-grade students eat their lunch in the crowded cafeteria at Pond Cove Elementary School in Cape Elizabeth. Renovations for the elementary school are included in an \$11.7 million improvement plan. Town residents will vote on that plan next week.

Staff photo by Jack Milton

Please see SCHOOL, Page 1A

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Everyone gets stronger and the whole institution of higher education in Portland gets stronger.”
William Andrews, president of Westbrook College, on a six-college alliance to be unveiled today.



FOOD & HEALTH

Snow ghost pie, vampire cocktails and dinosaur nests — all frightfully good Halloween treats. 1C



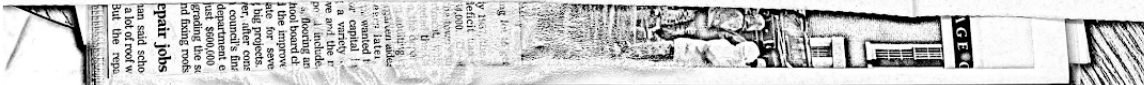
THE WEATHER

Mostly sunny today, high in the lower 50s. Clear tonight, low mid-20s. Sunny Tuesday, high 50. 8B



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Three decades later, here we are.

Surprise, it happened again.

But IT WON'T happen one more time.

We're here to clean up the messes set by DECADES of bad policy and financial decisions, and we're here to say we will NOT face this same situation in 20 years.

B will NEVER get 51% of the vote. To think otherwise is to believe in fairy tales.

- Nicole Boucher
14 Grover Road

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.

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