



East Greenwich Public Schools

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Date: 1/5/23

To: East Greenwich School Committee & East Greenwich Town Council

From: Andrew Nota & Dr. Brian G. Ricca

RE: School Construction Masterplan Initiative

Happy 2023 Everyone!

On Tuesday, January 3, 2023, Renu Englehart, Kevin Murphy, Andy Nota, Derek Osterman, Alyson Powell, Brian Ricca, and Mark Schwager were invited to meet as official representatives of the Town and School on the School Building Committee. The main topic of this discussion, in broad context, being the subsequent planning and organizational steps needed to advance the future bonding of the School Construction Masterplan Initiative.

As the School and Town had previously submitted a Stage I application on September 15, 2022, a final verification is being made to ensure this Stage I application continues to meet the eligibility requirements as provided by RIDE. Should any modification and/or statistical update be required, a routine update of such information will be completed in the coming weeks.

In the Superintendent Report for their regular meeting on Tuesday, January 10, the School Committee will receive a recommendation to approve the extension of the existing contract for Colliers for OPM and professional A&E services. In coordination with both the Town and School Administration, it has been determined that multiple funding sources are available to address this expansion of services in the form of school reserve funding, capital funding, and education impact fees.

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As the preliminary project work advances, consultant expenses are fully reimbursable, provided there is a positive vote on a future bond referendum. The consultant fees make up approximately 1% of the total bond project amount, which will carry the project through the submission of a Stage II by September 15 of this year. Meeting this deadline and hiring a builder by the end of this year are the next two substantial milestones to be achieved to advance the project.

Once the School Committee approves the extension of the existing Collier's contract, which the Building Committee supports, the Building Committee will begin meeting again regularly. That body's work to date has established some broad concepts, and their work now will be to identify the best design, which will be recommended to the full School Committee, and, ultimately, the Town Council as they prepare to contemplate a future bond referendum question to be placed before the voters.

To ensure a complete understanding of the project status, recommended scope, RIDE process, and project timeline by both elected bodies, the School Department will send monthly written updates to the Town Council and appear at regularly scheduled Town Council meetings to answer questions. We ask the Council to send their questions in advance to the Town Manager, who will forward such inquiries to the Building Committee, allowing for sufficient time for a thorough and thoughtful review and response.

While there will undoubtedly be some question(s) about the project timeline, both bodies need to understand that Stage II is primarily a bureaucratic exercise to ensure not only state department of education support but also to conclude the development of broad conceptual schematics by the architect and builder. After the referendum has passed, there will be several opportunities to continue to refine the design. Following the submission of our Stage II and State of Rhode Island Approval, the design team will then take us through Schematic Design, Design Development, and Construction Documents. These three phases often take a full year after Stage II is complete.

We look forward to this continued collaboration to serve the East Greenwich community.