

**Board of Selectmen**  
**Guidance on School Building Concepts**  
**May 23, 2018**

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At the June 9<sup>th</sup> Special Town Meeting, the Town will consider the relative merits of five (5) Lincoln School building project concepts. As the Town prepares to vote to determine which solution will move forward into the Schematic Design phase, the Board of Selectmen would like to share its thoughts with our colleagues on the other Town boards and committees, and with the Town at large.

*Our Hope for the Town*

We are unanimous in our view that we must come together as a community, regardless of which building concept emerges with the most votes on June 9<sup>th</sup>, and move forward with a project that addresses the significant, long-standing, and exhaustively studied needs of the Lincoln School. We will do our best to help frame the discussion and debate in a fair and balanced manner, including a clear assessment of project choices and tradeoffs. We anticipate and respect that at the end of the day principled differences of opinion will remain, knowing that our individual values, tastes and circumstances will inform our thinking and our votes. Nevertheless, this is a decision that will shape the education of our students and the civic life of our Town for generations to come. For the long-term well-being of our community, it is our hope that all residents will bring a willingness to compromise and a spirit of determination to this process, so that we may successfully bring a Lincoln School project to fruition. We respectfully ask the Town to stay engaged, keep an open mind, and to continue to work collaboratively after June 9<sup>th</sup> as we prepare to bond the Lincoln School project in December 2018.

*Our Recommendations*

Having reviewed all of the options and weighed them against the core project goals and values that emerged through an extensive public process, the Board has concluded:

1. The Finance Committee's strong recommendation that we stay within statutory debt limits and maintain prudent reserve levels is in the Town's best financial interest and, therefore, the Board supports the Finance Committee's recommendation.
2. The Repair Concept does not, in our judgment, provide sufficient long-term educational, environmental or financial value and, therefore, the Board does not support this option.
3. The Full Program Concept, at a projected cost that exceeds the Town's statutory bond limit, is unaffordable under the current circumstances and, therefore, the Board endorses the School Building Committee's removal of the Full Program Concept as a viable solution.
4. The L-1 Concept does not, in our judgment, provide sufficient long-term educational, environmental or financial value and, therefore, the Board does not support this option.
5. We believe that the remaining school building concepts (L-2, L-3 and C) are all reasonable and viable plans that will support, to differing degrees, the long-range needs of our School and community.

We look forward to a thorough discussion on June 9<sup>th</sup> and trust in the wisdom of Town Meeting to select the Lincoln School project concept that will move forward into Schematic Design. The vote to fund the project will take place later this year. Please put the following dates on your calendar:

- ✓ Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>: Special Town Meeting to BOND the project (2/3 majority required)
- ✓ Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>: Ballot Vote (Majority required)

In closing, we want to assure the Town that the Board is mindful of the magnitude of the financial investment the Town is considering. There will be a substantial impact on each of us regardless of how, together, we choose to move forward. Over the past many years, Town leadership has anticipated and planned for this impact by building up a substantial debt stabilization fund, increasing the number of tax work-off opportunities, and ensuring that we are communicating to our residents the breadth of tax relief programs available under state law. Each individual will need to consider and answer the questions of personal affordability and up-front cost vs. long-term value. We trust and respect the collective wisdom of the Town, and we look forward to the gathering of our community on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

Jonathan Dwyer, Chair  
Jennifer Glass  
James Craig