



East Lyme Public Schools

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SUPERINTENDENT
Jeffrey R. Newton

April 20, 2015

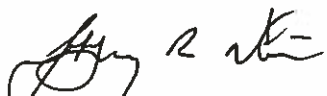
Dear Parents/Guardians:

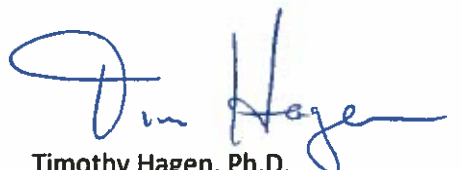
Over the past several months the East Lyme Elementary Schools Design Steering Committee with the architectural firm, Jacunski Humes Architects, has been working to develop building plans to renovate Niantic Center School and construct a new Flanders School consistent with the direction from the East Lyme Board of Education. A Programming and Space Needs Assessment for the projects was completed in February, and the first version of building design plans was presented to the Committee on March 26, 2015. Over the next few months, the Design Committee and the architects will have multiple iterations with design plans for each of the schools along with review sessions with the Board of Education.

Initial draft timelines developed in 2014 illustrated the necessary steps to meet a deadline date of June 30, 2015 for submission of plans to the State of Connecticut for reimbursement review and approval. This draft timeline required that a town referendum be held for the project in May of 2015. The Design Committee in February realized that more time was required to allow the development of the plans and to assure there was ample opportunity for review and discussion with our parents, the town, and the community on this venture. The Board of Education endorsed this recommendation. At earliest, we anticipate a referendum could occur next fall such that plans could be submitted to the State of CT for reimbursement review by June 30, 2016. This action provided additional time for us to continue to share information, while gathering input on the design and configuration of the two elementary schools.

We apologize for any confusion on the timing for the project and hope this letter helps clarify essential information. This is a complex undertaking with many steps in the process. Our goal is to remain as transparent as possible, and ensure our school community is kept up to date on the scope of work, cost, project development, and timeline. Information pertaining to the projects can be found on our district website at www.eastlymeschools.org. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey R. Newton
Superintendent of Schools


Timothy Hagen, Ph.D.
Chairman of the Board of Education