



East Lyme Public Schools

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SUPERINTENDENT
Jeffrey R. Newton

March 30, 2016

Dear Members of the East Lyme Public School District Community,

On November 9, 2015, the Board of Education voted to replace the existing Flanders School with a new facility and renovate as new Niantic Center School for a total cost estimate of \$82,755,855. The Board rescinded its vote on March 28, 2016 after considering the substantial financial impact of this plan to complete two schools at once, doubling the town debt, and that the town no longer has a vision to use the Lillie B. Haynes building. At this same meeting, the Board of Education then voted to approve a new project plan with a total conceptual cost estimate of \$45,060,609 to renovate as new Lillie B. Haynes School and to add refurbishment funds for Flanders School. The refurbishment funds would not exceed \$1.5 million dollars. The funds would be used to enhance security, upgrade technology, replace furniture, and provide minor building improvements to allow continued use of the school site for the next 5-7 years until a new Flanders Elementary School can be constructed. The estimated project net cost to East Lyme after state reimbursement is \$34,251,485. Allowing time between projects not only helps ease the tax burden our community will face, but it also enables us to monitor student enrollment and construct a Flanders School that meets our district population needs in the future.

The project requires approval by the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance before it can be brought to referendum for a town vote. We will maintain the same timeline as previously shared, which will allow us to file our project with the state by June 30, 2016, and hold a referendum in mid-September.

Next steps in this process will be to collaboratively discuss with staff, parents, and the community a construction plan and process to include a phased approach, which may include the appropriate use of portables or limited redistricting. We will remain committed to student safety and well-being, while also providing the least disruption to the educational environment.

I am confident our community will work together to ensure an improved elementary school environment for our students. This project will provide the combined population of Lillie B. Haynes and Niantic Center School children with a fully renovated state-of-the-art facility. Upon completion of a renovated Lillie B. Haynes School, we must then turn our attention to the future construction of a new Flanders School within 5 – 7 years.

I encourage you to visit our website to view plans, meeting minutes and other pertinent information regarding this project (<http://www.eastlymeschools.org/>).

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Newton
Jeffrey R. Newton
Superintendent of Schools

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