



East Lyme Public Schools

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SUPERINTENDENT

Jeffrey R. Newton

January 20, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We continue to focus our efforts on the proposed elementary school projects and renovation plans. In our last correspondence via letter in mid-December, we shared that we had obtained preliminary projected tax and mill rate increases from the town based on the proposed plan to build a new Flanders School and renovate as new Niantic Center School. The projected numbers were much higher than expected.

Continued efforts are occurring to collaboratively work with the town to identify the most affordable plan that brings us needed building updates that are in the best interest of students, staff, families, and our tax payers. At this time, there has been no change in the Board of Education's adopted plan to build a new Flanders School and renovate as new Niantic Center School. Collectively we continue to look at all costs associated with these plans. The adopted proposal by the Board of Education has not been forwarded on to the Board of Selectman to allow for further discourse around cost.

It remains our goal to bring the school projects to a successful referendum. Failure at referendum would be detrimental to the process and obtaining new building structures that are well overdue. It is imperative that we strategically and collaboratively work on this venture between the district and the town to ensure success.

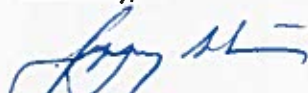
Next steps are as follows:

- Continued joint work will occur between the district, town and the design steering committee to collaboratively identify project costs that can meet appropriate needs for our elementary schools.
- Our Board of Education will continue discussions at their regularly scheduled meetings as new information comes forth.
- We will continue to adhere to an aggressive timeline that allows us to file our projects with the state by June 30th, 2016, and hold a referendum either this spring as initially proposed or by the fall of 2016.

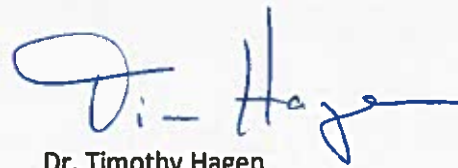
We appreciate your patience with this process. It is a large undertaking that requires a joint effort on many parts to ensure we are successful at referendum to bring forth the elementary school buildings that are going to serve our children, staff, families, and community for many years to come.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey R. Newton
Superintendent of Schools



Dr. Timothy Hagen
Chairman of the Board of Education