

Lucas Murray

From: Dorald Beasley <dwbeas@cox.net>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 11:02 PM
To: tlynch@sksd-ri.net; bmahoney@sksd-ri.net; djpalazzetti@gmail.com; cmcgair@sksd-ri.net; Lucas Murray
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Aaron Rodgers Jabs NFL Regarding Artificial Turf, Player Safety - Sports Illustrated

This was in the news recently. Complaining about higher incidence and severity of injuries on synthetic turf fields. Whether you're an Aaron Roger's fan is irrelevant, but there was one type of syn turf that may be causing mire problems.

db <https://www.si.com/nfl/2022/11/15/green-bay-packers-aaron-rodgers-jabs-nfl-regarding-artificial-turf-player-safety>

Lucas Murray

From: Martha Badigian <mbadigian@sksd-ri.net>
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2022 1:57 PM
To: School Building Committee
Subject: [EXTERNAL] our school library programs

You don't often get email from mbadigian@sksd-ri.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear School Building Committee,

First of all, I'd like to thank every one of you for the work that you are doing towards updating our SK Schools. The prospect of updating our schools is very exciting!

Last evening, I was listening to your December 8th meeting, and my attention was immediately drawn to a comment made by the RIDE Representative who attended the meeting, Mario Carreno. Mr. Carreno made a comment about something he saw in the Peace Dale School Library (where I am the Library Media Specialist). I think he misunderstood what he saw, but his comment might definitely give anyone listening the impression that our school libraries aren't up to date in terms of what we are teaching. I thought it was very important to correct that impression, so I sent him a letter, which I'd also like to share with you here. As we all know, this is a very budget-sensitive time, and anyone who thinks our school libraries aren't up to date in terms of what we teach might begin to think that our school libraries are no longer relevant. The exact opposite is true, of course, as I explained to Mr. Carreno in the letter below. I hope this might correct any impression he might have given that our school libraries are "behind the times". Thank you very much for taking the time to consider these thoughts.

Respectfully,

Martha Badigian

Hello Mr. Carreno,

I am the [Library Media Specialist at Peace Dale Elementary School](#) in South Kingstown. Last night, I was watching the recording of the Dec. 8th meeting of our South Kingstown School Building Committee, which you were kind enough to attend. I was delighted to hear that you had singled out the Peace Dale School library, both as a beautiful space with much potential, but also as a room in need of some attention and updating- thank you for that!

I am contacting you, though, regarding a comment that you made, and I just wanted to correct an impression that you seemed to have about the library. You mentioned that we have twenty year old encyclopedias and also a set of dictionaries, and that "times have changed". I can completely understand how you would see those books and think perhaps that was what we focus on in the school library. I wanted to explain to you that indeed, we have a couple of old encyclopedia sets which are old, precisely because it would no longer make sense to invest in print encyclopedias when

we have many online resources, including the online World Book Encyclopedia which is available for free to anyone in the state via askri.org, compliments of the RI Office of Library & Information Services (OLIS).

However, I find it useful to keep the sets because I think it is important for students to understand how encyclopedias have evolved to be the online sources that they are today. But when they learn that every article in an encyclopedia is written by an expert in the field of that subject, and that they are fact-checked and guaranteed to be a reliable source, they begin to understand that there is a difference in typing a subject into a field in an online encyclopedia vs. typing a subject in a search field in a search engine such as Google, for example. If they don't understand what encyclopedias are, they might not appreciate the difference. I think that to the students, the search fields look about the same until they understand a little more about the nature of the source they are consulting. This is the reason the encyclopedias are still in the library. We touch on the print encyclopedias briefly, then move to the online World Book.

As for the dictionaries, I find it very useful to do some print dictionary work, for the purpose of strengthening alphabetical order skills, which are still [very much a relevant life skill](#). Not only are there "real life" as well as online situations in which they need to use alphabetical order skills, it also helps with what I call "puzzle brain"- the ability to keep track of letter positioning and quickly determine letter sequence. We don't spend a tremendous amount of time actually using the print dictionaries, but it is an excellent way to practice the skill of alphabetical order.

Additionally, in our library classes, we learn how to use [our OPAC](#) (Online Public Access Catalog), as well as several online reference tools such as Exploring Nature, Culturegrams, and the Online Worldbook Encyclopedia. We also spend 4-6 weeks working in [Code.org](#), so our elementary students establish a basis in "coding thinking" which will serve them well as they advance to robotics and coding in middle school.

I realize that you had mentioned these things in passing, based on a quick impression, but I worried because it creates the impression that our library media centers are not up-to-date in practice, when in fact we very much focus on the tech skills our kids need. I just wanted to correct what sounded like a negative impression of what happens in our school libraries in SK. In the strained budget environments that are public schools today, I am fearful when people do not fully understand what happens in the library. If they think we are backward in our practice, it makes the library program vulnerable. In fact, we are at the forefront of teaching many tech skills to the kids, in addition to coding, we also teach digital citizenship and media literacy, skills that are critical for our kids.

I hope you understand why I feel it is very important to correct any impression you had come away with when you saw the print encyclopedias and dictionaries at Peace Dale. In fact, I have an MBA and previously worked in technology, before becoming a Library media Specialist more than 20 years ago. Because my daughter was in SK Schools at the time, I knew first-hand that the district (at the time) was not always providing maximum opportunities for kids to use tech tools as much as they could, and it has been a special and particular mission of mine to make sure kids are fluent in these skills, particularly since these are some of the best jobs available in the world! (My own daughter ended up majoring in computer science and completed a Master's Degree at Carnegie Mellon in a tech-related area.)

I am constantly trying to educate people as to what happens when the kids come to the library, and so again, I hope you understand that in the budget-sensitive environment in which we operate, it is critical that people understand the kind of work that is happening here. In fact, you have an open invitation from me to attend some of our [classes](#)!

In closing, thank you so much for meeting with our Building Committee, and helping to guide them through the process of updating our buildings in SK, which are greatly in need of updating, as you pointed out!

I just wanted to reach out to make sure you understand the kind of work that is happening in our school libraries.

Very best regards, and respectfully,

Martha

Martha Badigian
Library Media Specialist

Lucas Murray

From: Dorald Beasley <dwbeas@cox.net>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 2:12 PM
To: School Building Committee; contep@studiojaed.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Questions and Comments on SKSD Building Committee Meeting
Attachments: 2017 RIDE Facility Condition Report - Highlighted.pdf; H 7125.pdf; S 2596 SUB A.pdf; 2022 Housing Aid Bonus Certifications.pdf; 200-RICR-20-05-04 (School_Construction).pdf; S 2051.pdf

To all,

As you can see I was going to send this to the School Building Authority but frankly some of what I'm questioning is embarrassing. Why for instance, after saying that we couldn't use 225 sf per student would the SBA then suggest using a number less than what is suggested in their own regulations? I also don't believe the statement Mr. Carreno made about an energy conservation bonus. The possibility of qualifying for a new 40% minimum housing aid is also in question.

But I believe you need to pin the SBA down as to my first question regarding optimal functional capacity and the likelihood of finding more students ten you expect waiting to enter our new high school when those doors open for the first time. And today's release of the 2021-22 District/School Report Cards - <https://reportcard.ride.ri.gov/202122/DistrictProfile?DistCode=32> - showing SKHS is now a 4-Star school won't hurt either.

I didn't send this to Mr. Carreno and Ms. Kentor because it's not my responsibility to be asking these questions, it's yours, and you should want answers as much as I do. It took me some hours to put this together free of charge. I hope you'll use it.

db

Mr. Carreno,

I regrettably picked the wrong meeting to attend last week when you and Ms. Kentor came to the South Kingstown for our School Building Committee meeting. I had hoped to ask what I believe is an important question about the functional capacity of a high school in context of South Kingstown's student migration. It was not discussed in the video.

1. OPTIMUM FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY

The 2017 Jacobs Report on "The State of Rhode Island's Schoolhouses" said that the optimum functional capacity for a high school is between 75-85%. I've attached that report and highlighted some areas on pgs. 11,12 and 14 which discuss functional capacity, aspirational capacity, and utilization. If you use our current projected enrollment of 703 as that 85% optimum capacity figure it would mean our new high school should be built to accommodate 827 students ($703/0.85$), not 703. I believe that if we build a new high school, and put it in the right place with a proximate football/track facility, we will see 100-200 students return to our district, and come from other districts, reversing our current trend of declining enrollment, at least at the high school. What follows is why I think this is a real possibility.

Here are the enrollment numbers from 2021-22 and 2022-23 for South Kingstown:

2021 (1 Oct enrollment of 2,608):

Tuition to other districts - $\$2,121,084/\$16,917 = 125$ students; tuition to charter schools - $\$1,827,347/\$16,917 = 108$ students; Catholic schools - 243 (107 HS); Independent schools 77 (22 HS); Home-Schooled 54; for a Grand total = 607. That means that last year, in total, there were actually 3,215 school aged students in S.K, but $607/3215 = 18.9\%$ did not attend our schools. That's an "off-the-charts" ratio of almost 1 out of every 5 students. Have you ever seen this before in a "wealthy" district?

2022 (1 Oct enrollment of 2,509):

Tuition to other districts - \$2,308,490/\$18,025 = 128 students; tuition to charter schools - \$2,112,560/\$18,025 = 117 students - total = 245 an increase of 12 from 2021. If the 2022 numbers for those 3 other categories are similar we will be closer to 20%.

2. SPACE ALLOWANCE GUIDELINES

You mentioned that a number less than the 200 sf per student could be used for this building. I ask this because if we were to build a high school for 703 students using the 200 sf allowed by the "Space Allowance Guidelines" ([200-RICR-20-05-4](#)) and 827 students show up on opening day that 140,600 sf school would only have 170 sf of available space per student. If you divide 140,600 by the minimum allowable space allowance for a high school of 1,000 students of 185 sf you get 760, meaning that 140,600 sf high school would be at 109% capacity with 827 students. Any number less than 200 sf per student will limit the number of out-of-district students that may want to choose SKHS. This is why I believe designing a high school for 703 students is a mistake, but if you believe 827 is a stretch then how about 800?

3. GREEN ENERGY BONUS

You also mentioned last week that there are new incentive bonuses for green energy improvements. Being a coastal community, which is already experiencing significant erosion along our shoreline, green energy components must be a part of design decisions - geothermal heating/cooling, solar panels, special window glass coatings. There were incentives in the original legislation for energy conservation but I believed they were removed before final passage. Last January Seth Magaziner introduced legislation that would add energy saving, and minority business bonuses but I believe those bills (H 7125/S 2596 SUB A) were not passed. Green construction is also not listed on the SBA's 2022 Housing Aid Bonus Certification.

4. MINIMUM HOUSING AID

Legislation (S 2051) was introduced this year to increase the minimum housing aid to 40%, but the community had to have a free-reduced lunch percentage of 20 or more.

Dorald Beasley - Kingston - 401.218.5679 [mobile]

Lucas Murray

From: Dorald Beasley <dwbeas@cox.net>
Sent: Thursday, December 22, 2022 2:09 PM
To: School Building Committee
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Questions from the SKSD Building Committee Meeting

To all,

Here's the response I received from Mr. Carreno regarding enrollment projections for a new SKHS given the number of students who live in S.K. but do not attend our public schools.

db

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:RE: Questions from the SKSD Building Committee Meeting
Date:Fri, 16 Dec 2022 17:17:56 +0000
From:Carreno, Mario <Mario.Carreno@ride.ri.gov>
To:'Dorald Beasley' <dwbeas@cox.net>
CC:Kentor, Keelia <Keelia.Kentor@ride.ri.gov>

Mr. Beasley,

Thank you for reaching out on behalf of South Kingstown taxpayers. We are pleased to hear that Sout Kingstown High School is a four star school, and confident that a new facility will help get you to 5 stars.

In order to consider a different figure in our calculations, we would need a demographer to substantiate a higher projected enrollment. The District is welcomed and encouraged to seek a new enrollment projection based on the information you have provided.

Thanks,

Mario Carreño, ALEP
Chief Operations Officer
Rhode Island Department of Education
255 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903
Tel: 401-222-8030
Fax: 401-222-2823
www.ride.ri.gov/sba

From: Dorald Beasley <dwbeas@cox.net>
Sent: Friday, December 16, 2022 11:07 AM
To: Carreno, Mario <Mario.Carreno@ride.ri.gov>
Cc: Keelia Kentor <keelia.kentor@gmail.com>
Subject: Questions from the SKSD Building Committee Meeting

Good morning Mr. Carreno,

I regrettably picked the wrong meeting to attend last week when you and Ms. Kentor came to the South Kingstown for our School Building Committee meeting. I had hoped to ask what I believe is an important question about the functional capacity of a high school in context of South Kingstown's student migration. It was not discussed in the video.

THE JACOBS OPTIMUM FUNCTIONAL CAPACITIES + SBA SPACE ALLOWANCE GUIDELINES SEEM INCONGRUENT

The 2017 Jacobs Report on "The State of Rhode Island's Schoolhouses" said that the optimum functional capacity for a high school is between 75-85%. I've attached that report and highlighted some areas on pgs. 11,12 and 14 which discuss functional capacity, aspirational capacity, and utilization. If you use our current projected enrollment of 703 as that 85% optimum capacity figure it would mean our new high school should be built to accommodate 827 students ($703/0.85$), not 703. I believe that if we build a new high school, and put it in the right place with a proximate football/track facility, we will see 100-200 students return to South Kingstown, and come from other districts, reversing our trend of declining enrollments, at least at the high school. What follows is why I think this is a real possibility.

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likelihood of finding more students than you expect waiting to enter our new high school when those doors open for the first time. And today's release of the 2021-22 District/School Report Cards -

<https://reportcard.ride.ri.gov/202122/DistrictProfile?DistCode=32> - showing SKHS is now a 4-Star school won't hurt either.

It was brought out that we can't use the 225 sf per student allowance for CTE spaces for the entire building, but later on you said we might want to use a number less than the 200 sf per student. I ask this because if we were to build a high school for 703 students using the 200 sf ($703 \times 200 = 140,600$) allowed by the "Space Allowance Guidelines" (200-RICR-20-05-4) and 827 students show up on opening day there will only be 170 sf of available space per student. If you divide 140,600 by the minimum allowable space allowance for a high school of 1,000 students of 185 sf you get 760, meaning that 140,600 sf high school would be at 109% capacity with 827 students. Any number less than 200 sf per student will limit the number of out-of-district students that may want to choose SKHS. This is why I believe designing a high school for 703 students is a mistake, but if you believe 827 is a stretch then how about 800?

Thank you,

Dorald Beasley - Kingston - 401.218.5679 [mobile]

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Lucas Murray

From: Dorald Beasley <dwbeas@cox.net>
Sent: Thursday, December 22, 2022 2:11 PM
To: School Building Committee
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NESDEC Report

To all,

I was informed by the school department last week that the new 2022 NESDEC enrollment report would be available this week - Monday 12/19. My request to get the report was answered as follows below.

I submitted an APRA form online this morning.

db

The one number I'm most interested in is the projected 2026-27 (9-12) number - currently 703.

Are you saying the district has the report now, but won't release it until January 6th because nobody is allowed to see it before the School Committee? If that's the case email it to them this afternoon. We're not talking Mar-a-lago state secrets here, we're talking about a yearly report of enrollment forecasts which doesn't require an explanation by a member of the administration.

Last year's NESDEC report was published on 12/13/2021. I just reviewed every agenda starting with 12/14/2021 thru Feb 2022 and the report wasn't listed anywhere. It's always been something that's been made available with a simple email request. Is this going to require an official APRA from now on. I must say this district has become less transparent with data over the last 6 months, and it's concerning to me because I was expecting it to get better, not worse.

db

School Committee is getting it on January 10th so it will be up on board docs on the Friday before that (Jan 6th).

On Wed, Dec 21, 2022 at 2:07 PM Dorald Beasley <dwbeas@cox.net> wrote:

Hi,

Is the report somewhere it can be accessed now?

db

On 12/16/2022 2:59 PM, Dorald Beasley wrote:

Thank you

On 12/16/2022 2:58 PM, Raquel Pellerin wrote:
The data will be released Monday

Lucas Murray

From: Jill Osullivan <jill.osullivan245@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 4, 2023 10:18 AM
To: School Building Committee
Cc: Carol Vetter; Kate Macinanti; Michelle Brousseau; cfish@sksd-ri.net; jrestivo@sksd-ri.net; mboyd@sksd-ri.net; mprince@sksd-ri.net; pwhitford@sksd-ri.net; Town Council; Town Manager
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Columbia Street

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jill.osullivan245@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I listened to last night's special work session meeting of the school committee to determine the location of the high school. As they unanimously choose Columbia street with little to no discussion to the pros and cons of Curtis Corner, I do hope the plan for Columbia street will have as little disruption as possible to learning for those students who will be impacted

The school committee didn't seem to take into consideration the requirements for swing space. Having a freshman who had a completely unacceptable experience at CCMS from lack of a standard curriculum to the crumbling building that has a tiny gym, small cafeteria and no auditorium it makes me sick to think any current high school student may return to that existing building. It sounded to me the thinking is, they could put some students in CCMS and keep some at SKHS while work is completed.

Where will students that drive park at CCMS? Where will staff, students and construction workers park while work is completed at Columbia St? How will CTEs like the carpentry program that require a large specialized space be accommodated? These are just logistical questions that didn't even occur to the SC even after the superintendent discussed transportation. I'll add construction is noisy. One morning at drop off I commented to my Junior about what a nice job they were doing rehabbing the house across from the entrance, his response was it's really noisy, I have a class right there. Imagine the noise of a large construction project.

To say I was disappointed in a real discussion of the merits of one site vs another is an understatement. I understand it's not your charge to choose and honestly I don't have a preference of location, but it was truly a waste of everyone's time, yours included as this SC had made their decision long before...listen to the chairs opening comment.

I wish you well in coming up with a plan and I do hope that we don't sacrifice some of our learners in the short term, which from listening to last night's discussion seems to be the direction the School Committee is headed.

Sincerely

Jill O'Sullivan

Lucas Murray

From: Maura Gazerro <mgazerro@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 8:59 PM
To: School Building Committee
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Location for New High School

You don't often get email from mgazerro@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Chairpersons Macinanti and Murray,

I regularly attend the School Building Committee meetings; however, I was unable to attend this evening and planned to watch the video. I was catching up on emails and opened the transportation survey as I have 3 children who will be attending the high school in the future. The first question on the survey was this one:

1.) The new South Kingstown High School will be located at it's current location (215 Columbia St.). What would be the preferred mode of transportation for the student in your household?

I was quite taken aback, as I attended the last meeting on December 15 and the question of location was still quite up in the air. When and how was the decision made? Had I been able to attend this evening I was going to ask the committee about their approach on how they were going to make this decision. So when I opened this email I was confused and concerned.

I will watch the video from this evening's meeting, which may provide answers; however, to have made the decision between 12/15/2022 and 1/9/2023 when I received the email, I am very concerned on how this decision was made if this is, in fact, the final decision. I was hoping there would be more transparency on how this decision was made, including, perhaps, sending out surveys in the same way many surveys are sent out to residents of SK.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,
Maura Gazerro

Lucas Murray

From: Barbara Watts <bsullivanwatts@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 11:05 AM
To: School Building Committee
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Taking advantage of the Inflation Reduction Act

You don't often get email from bsullivanwatts@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Members of the SK Building Committee,

I am a resident of South Kingstown, a wonderful place to have sent my children to our public schools. I am also the State Coordinator for Citizens' Climate Lobby's Rhode Island Chapter. We work to find solutions to climate change at both national and local levels.

I wanted to alert you to opportunities for school to simultaneously save money and reduce carbon emissions that cause climate change by the **Inflation Reduction Act**. Likely you are already aware of these but in case not here are some resources to find out more information for schools specifically. They are included in the message below I hope you find them useful.

The Inflation Reduction Act can help unlock the education sector's ability to mitigate and adapt to climate change and provides critical funding to support schools in creating healthy, sustainable learning environments.

This [resource](#), developed in partnership between The Aspen Institute's This Is Planet Ed and the World Resources Institute's Electric School Bus Initiative, outlines the potential opportunities in the Inflation Reduction Act to support schools.

Find this and many other resources for healthy, safe, sustainable 21st century learning environments and environmental sustainability education on the [Green Strides School Sustainability Resource Hub](#).

Thank you so much for your hard work for our town's schools!!

Barbara Sullivan-Watts

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Barbara K. Sullivan-Watts, Ph.D.
Graduate School of Oceanography/University of Rhode Island
State Coordinator, Citizens' Climate Lobby Rhode Island
Please like us on [Face Book](#), Follow us on [@RI_CCL](#)



Lucas Murray

From: Melissa Boyd <mboyd@sksd-ri.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 10:35 AM
To: Mark Prince; Paula Whitford; Michelle Brousseau
Cc: School Building Committee; Town Council; Town Manager
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request for Agenda Items and Special Meeting Calendaring

You don't often get email from mboyd@sksd-ri.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good morning,

After listening again to our SC last meeting, as well as to the most recent TC meeting, I would like to request the following agenda items:

- 1) A standing discussion/action item for the School Building Committee Update/Project Planning on every future SC agenda.
- 2) A special meeting at least 1x/month until we get through Stage II so that the SC committee can discuss priorities and direction to communicate with the SBC.
- 3) Community comment on the agenda at all future meetings. Please note that our bylaws do not prevent us from having community comment at any type of meeting (Special or Workshop). This, at times, was a practice of the past and I would like to see us remove this as a step towards continued transparency and engagement with the community.

The bylaws indicate that 3 SC members are needed to make agenda and standing meeting requests. Please note that both Carol Vetter and James Restivo support these requests. Thank you for reviewing this and working to schedule this on future agendas.

I would appreciate it if you would please share the above requests with the other members of the SC as a matter of information and scheduling as we are allowed.

Thank you.

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Lucas Murray

From: Jill Osullivan <jill.osullivan245@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 6:49 PM
To: School Building Committee
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: School Building Plan

You don't often get email from jill.osullivan245@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

One of the school committee members suggested I pass along my letter. After listening to the 1/23 TC meeting I can't help but think of the possibilities for mixed use at Columbia street and I truly worry about the missed opportunities of a more forward thinking plan for our schools.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jill Osullivan <jill.osullivan245@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Jan 18, 2023 at 7:52 PM

Subject: School Building Plan

To: <pwhitford@sksd-ri.net>, Michelle Brousseau <mbrousseau@sksd-ri.net>, <cfish@sksd-ri.net>, Carol Vetter <cvetter@sksd-ri.net>, Kate Macinanti <kmacinanti@sksd-ri.net>, <jrestivo@sksd-ri.net>, <mboyd@sksd-ri.net>

Cc: <mprince@sksd-ri.net>

I have been following the SC and SBC meetings. What was very apparent to me from all the analysis done by JAED studios was that our long term needs and wants will not be satisfied if you continue down the path you are headed.

I understand our community needs to come up with a fiscally responsible plan. The possibility of building on the Hazard field was looked at by the building committee when they considered placing the football stadium there- it was not permissible. Listening to the meeting that decided to stay at Columbia street and saying you didn't want to change the landscape of the town...well things change we have less students and there is indeed an appetite for 1 elementary, 1 middle school and 1 high school. I encourage you to please consider this and yes rethink a longer term plan for a campus location. Going from 5 buildings to 3 certainly would be a significant operational cost savings. Not to mention logistically it would work well for the idea of an educator CTE program. And from hearing TC member concerns about operational savings - well again 3 buildings are less expensive to operate than 5.

It's exhausting to listen to these meetings because it just goes round in circles. My guess is you are only hearing from the segment of our community who doesn't want change and don't want tax increases. It's apparent to me you are trying so hard to get that group to come on board you are not reaching your end users- families of current and future students who actually will be using the buildings. I'd suggest if the principal sends out a weekly email as the HS does perhaps informing families of the status of our facilities plan would be a way to communicate to your target audience. We need a new high school and we can't disrupt students that will be impacted by construction/renovation. Like it or not, keeping the students where they are and build somewhere else then move the students when completed makes the most sense. It's practical, logical and likely no more costly than swing space or modifying existing buildings and is certainly the least disruptive to our students. No one wants to send their child back to Curtis Corner and a reopened South Road School, again an unnecessary expense to retro-fit buildings for swing space. Money that would be more wisely spent on building a new high school. I would hope we would just delay closing WES rather than go to the trouble again of relocating the PreK temporarily which would be the fourth relocation since 2012. It's an unnecessary expense to reconfigure bathrooms and construct play areas for a temporary setup. My students attended PreK at Hazard, one of the reasons for moving all those years ago (2012) was having littles on the 2nd floor was a fire safety concern.

The failure has always been the town not coming up with a plan as to what happens to any abandoned school building. If I'm wrong and you can build while staying at Columbia street, I hope you'll get the town to temporarily change parking around the HS because honestly where do you think staff, students and now we add in construction workers and a staging area for construction will be located.

I have a current Freshman and these discussions have me considering she may not end up graduating from SKHS. And I know others who feel the same as me, let alone current middle school students who are already looking at alternatives to SKHS. If you fail to provide a NEW building the exodus will continue and to be honest with you it will include students that are already at the high school who will be disrupted and will not be benefiting from any "new high school".

I do hope you really consider the former bond did not simply fail because of location, it failed because many wanted a new high school not an addition and parts of the old building remaining untouched. In my opinion a full meeting between yourselves and the SBC would be beneficial to flush out what can and cannot be done. When I heard JAED studios say we could build a right size high school including AC my ears perked up and it's worth a meeting to understand what can and cannot occur whatever your decision is. As it's clear to me there are points that have been discussed with the SBC that somehow have not been conveyed to the SC i.e. building on the Hazard Field.

Sincerely,

Jill O'Sullivan

Lucas Murray

From: Dorald Beasley <dwbeas@cox.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2023 4:59 PM
To: School Building Committee; Town Council; Paula Whitford; Michelle Brousseau; Melissa Boyd-Colvin; Christie Fish; Kate MacMahon Macinanti; jrestivo@sksd-ri.net; Carol Vetter
Cc: contep@studiojaed.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Save Columbia St for Affordable Housing
Attachments: Repurposing of Vacant and Unused School and Municipal Buildings for Affordable Housing .docx; H7943A.pdf; S3048.pdf

To all,

As currently proposed SKHS will remain on Columbia St. If the decision is made to forego renovation ILO building new, two scenarios already presented are:

1. Demo everything except the original school building (approx 45,000 sf) fronting Columbia St, and the existing auditorium. The 3-story structure on Columbia St would be gutted and completely reconfigured as part of the new high school, and a renovated auditorium.

Q - What is the current projected cost of demolition, material removal, and overall site preparation before construction begins with this option?

2. Raze the entire 234,900 sf complex and prepare the site for construction.

Q. What is the current projected cost of demoing SKHS in its entirety and preparing the site for construction?

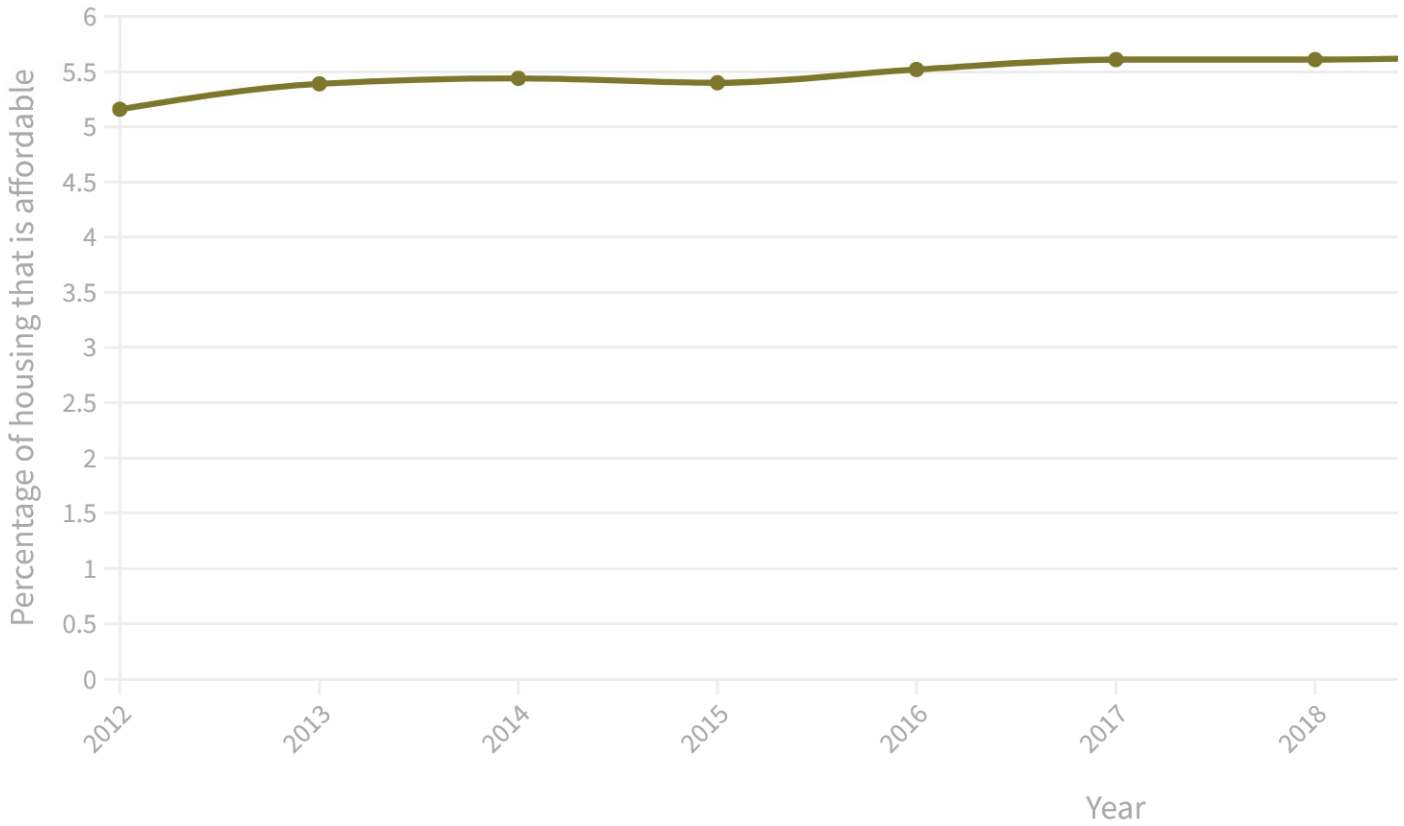
I'm asking these questions because legislation was passed last year (attached) and signed into law by the Governor that mandates communities with unused/abandoned school buildings to offer them to the RI Housing, Mortgage and Finance Corp. for conversion into affordable housing if the host community isn't meeting the 10% threshold of affordable units.

This report came out two days ago: <https://ecori.org/affordable-housing-stock-shrinks-in-some-r-i-towns/>

How Rhode Island towns' affordable housing stock has changed over time

Choose a Rhode Island town to see how it has progressed towards (or fallen behind) the 10% legislature

South Kingstown ▼

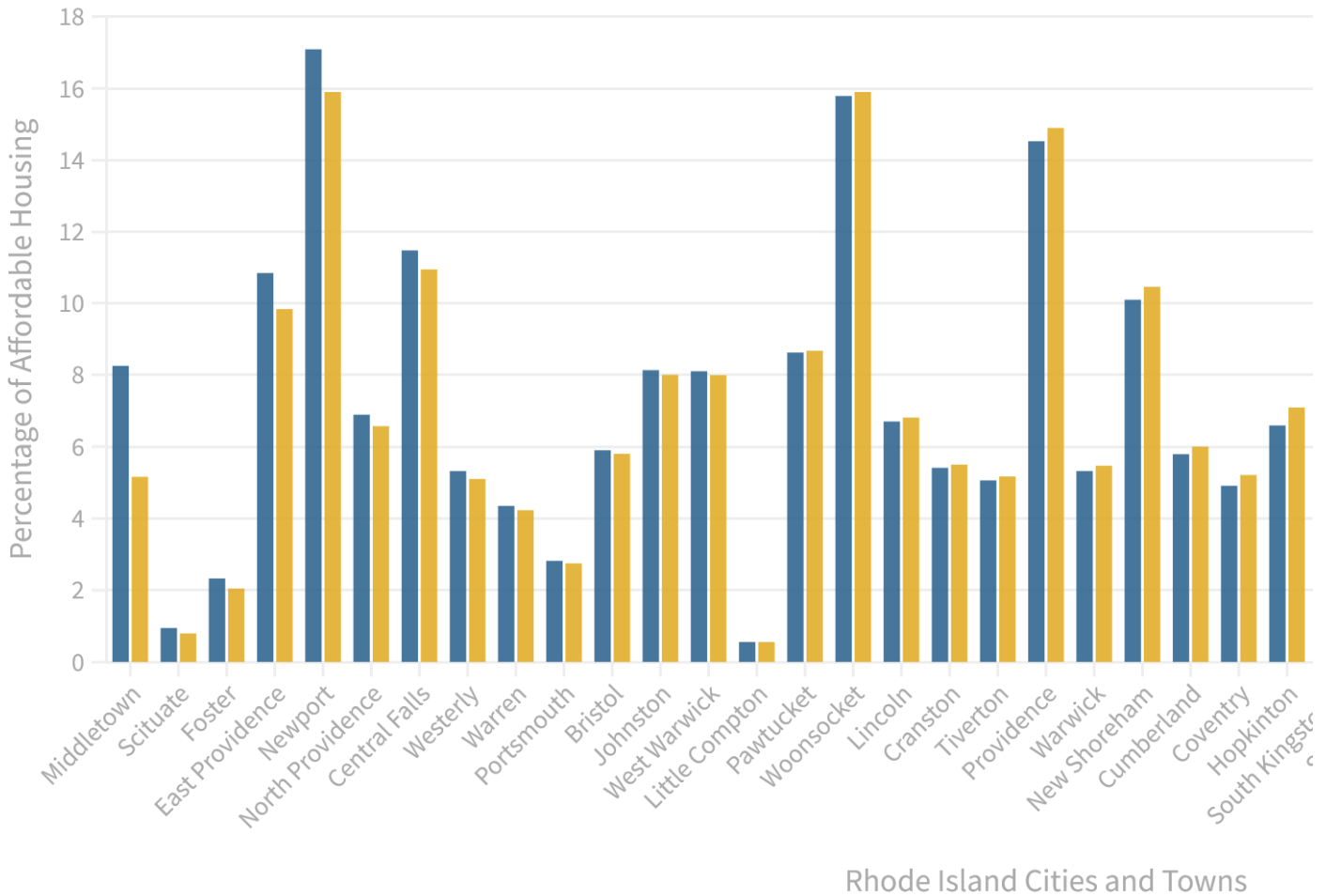


Source: RI HousingWorks



Municipality	LMIH %	LMIH Units	Elderly	Family	Special Needs
South Kingstown	5.57%	607	345	173	89

Percentage of Affordable Housing by Town



■ 2012 ■ 2022

Source: [Housing Works R.I.](https://www.housingworksri.com/)

South Kingstown's percentage has inched up from 5.16% to 5.57% over the past decade (562 units to 607), but most of that growth has been housing for the elderly, and not for families or households with special needs. Using the data you see here from 2021 (<https://www.rihousing.com/low-mod-income-housing/>) SK would need an additional 483 units to reach the 10% goal (1,090). At our current pace it would take 107 years to meet that minimum percentage! South Kingstown needs a jump start, which converting SKHS to affordable housing would provide in addressing our deficiency. I believe that legislation turned Columbia St into the most valuable property owned by the Town of South Kingstown. That complex should be repurposed into affordable housing or a combination of commercial/affordable housing.

I'm requesting JAED Studios provide an estimate of how many housing units could be created from the 234,900 sf SKHS complex so a discussion can take place with all stakeholders (School Committee, School Building Committee, Town Council, Rec Commission and the public) to determine the best course of action and not spend/waste millions of taxpayer's dollars unwisely. We talk continuously about affordable housing but end up doing little or nothing about the problem.

Here are three possible options:

A. Go back to Curtis Corner and eliminate 2-3 years of "swing space" chaos or,

B. Create a 3D scale model combining the Broad Rock Middle School property, the Rec Center and adjoining play fields, plus the Old Mountain Field parcel, and present it to the Board of Directors of the Greater Providence YMCA (which is what should have happened the first time) to see if they would be willing to sell a portion of the S. County YMCA property for a new 2-3 story high school and essential only parking or,

C. Find a new location for the high school.

Every 25 students whose parents decide to send their children elsewhere during construction if you stay on Columbia St. will cost the taxpayers another \$500,00 per year! This year we are paying \$4,145,360 to other school districts and charter schools to educate 230 students from S.K. I estimate is 50 students will leave and won't return for their junior or senior years, even if the building is ready.

Note: Barrington has 25 students going out-of-district this year, and up in East Greenwich 14.5!

Respectfully submitted,

Dorald Beasley - 401.218.5679 [mobile]