

March 29, 2013

Dear Lincoln Residents,

First, on behalf of the School Committee, I would like to express our thanks to the community for its support at the recent Annual Town Meeting. We were very pleased to present a budget that fit within the Finance Committee's guideline, and appreciate that it was approved by the voters.

I would also like to take the opportunity to clarify an article in the March 28th edition of the Lincoln *Journal*. At Town Meeting, the School Committee sought \$17,700 to do work on a revised school building project. The measure, Article 10, *did* get the 2/3 vote needed to pass. The *Journal* article indicated that it had failed.

Here is some information about the current status of a Lincoln School building project:

- In February, Lincoln proposed an alternate, "L-shaped" building configuration to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA).
- In March, the MSBA determined that this constituted a "new project" and would require a new Statement of Interest (SOI).
- At its March 18th meeting, the Board of Selectmen voted to sign a new Statement of Interest pending the School Committee's approval.
- On March 21st, the School Committee (SC) voted to approve the SOI and authorize its submission to the MSBA by the April 10th deadline. The School Committee also voted to disband the School Building Committee.
- March 23rd Annual Town Meeting: Article 10 was approved by a 2/3 majority. Thank you to all those who attended Town Meeting!
- This money will be spent only if Lincoln is invited back into the MSBA funding pipeline.
- The funds will be used to assess the work done to date by the School Building Committee to determine which parts of the feasibility study can be reused as-is, which might be useful if updated, and which parts would no longer be relevant. The goal is to avoid duplication of work, saving both time and money.
- In the coming weeks, the SC will discuss the process for appointing a new School Building Committee. The Committee believes that the new SBC should draw on the knowledge and experience of prior members and invite new members and perspectives.

We are very grateful for the engagement of the community over the past several months, and look forward to working with the Town to find a solution to the Lincoln School's building needs. For an interesting perspective on school building projects, I recommend a recent article in the Huffington Post:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mobileweb/rick-fedrizzi/the-price-of-education_b_2948198.html?ncid=edlinkusaolp00000003&ir=Education

With gratitude,
Jennifer Glass
Chair, Lincoln School Committee