



Leicester Public Schools

KNOWLEDGE • SKILLS • CHARACTER

Marilyn Tencza, Superintendent of Schools

3 Washburn Square, Leicester, MA 01524

P. 508.892.7040 F. 508-892-7063

www.lpsma.net



September 30, 2020

MSBA

40 Broad Street

Boston, MA 02109

On Saturday, September 26, 2020, at the Special Town Meeting, the citizens of the Town of Leicester voted 315 in favor of the project; 506 opposed with three abstentions. The Project failed to garner the 2/3rds vote necessary to pass the warrant article. The ballot vote will be taken on November 3, 2020.

The School District's understanding of the reasons the project failed include:

1. Problems with the Cherry Valley Water District and the excessive water bills the residents face.
2. The existing site was seen as unsuitable because of drainage issues that have plagued other projects on the site and in the town.
3. The tax increase to the average home was seen as a burden on many families and seniors in the community.
4. The residents believed that the new school would reduce their property values.
5. The residents are dealing with water issues on the site of the new fire station that cost the town almost \$700,000 in legal and repair fees that they are projecting will occur once the new school is built.
6. The Finance Advisory Committee, the Capital Committee and the Select Board all failed to support the project.
7. The citizens thought that 91 million was too expensive, even with the MSBA contributing 41 million to the project.

The school district proposes the following remedy: we would to wait until the November 3, 2020 election to assess the results. In the meantime, members of the School Committee will convene to discuss alternative plans. We will meet with the Board of Selectmen, Finance Advisory Committee, and the Capital Committee to gather information about what the appetite in the town is to move forward with the current project or if the best option at this time is to withdraw the current Statement of Interest and to reapply in the future for new Middle School Project.

The Leicester Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, pregnancy and pregnancy-related condition, age, active military/veteran status, ancestry, or national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, employment policies, and other administered programs and activities. In addition, students who are homeless or of limited English-speaking ability are protected from discrimination in accessing the course of study and other opportunities available through the schools.

During the next few weeks, we will try to determine the scope of the project that the town will support.

Soon after November 3, 2020, I will be in contact again with a final decision about whether the Town of Leicester will go forward with the current project or withdraw its SOI. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

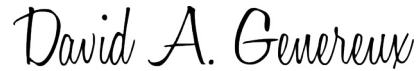
Sincerely,



Marilyn Tencza
Superintendent



Nathan Hagglund
Chair, School Committee



David Genereux
Town Administrator