



# LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BALLFIELD ROAD

LINCOLN, MASSACHUSETTS 01773

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School Committee

Matina Madrick  
Chairperson

Kim Rajdev  
Vice Chairperson

Jacob Lehrhoff

John MacLachlan

Susan Taylor

November 16, 2023

Community Center Building Committee

Sarah Chester, Co-chair

Jonathan Dwyer, Co-chair

Dear Sarah and JD,

As voters consider developing a Community Center, the Lincoln School Committee urges everyone to look at the project in its context on the school campus and to support adequate funding for safe and smooth operation of both town and school district programs.

Our first concern must be for safety. This means funding for pedestrian and bicycle pathways and crosswalks, traffic patterns, and adequate, lighted and safe sidewalks, parking and pick-up/drop-off lanes, and for continued scrutiny by Public Safety, Emergency Preparedness, School administrators, and our Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Council as plans are refined.

We also need to ensure the smooth operation of ongoing key programs in the Hartwell area:

- School district central administration offices that serve both Lincoln and Hanscom campuses
- The school district's facilities maintenance workshop
- LEAP, our extended-day activities program
- Magic Garden, a long-time tenant and provider of Lincoln's fulltime, year-round daycare

Over the last decade, the School Committee has budgeted for basic maintenance of the Hartwell campus, but has postponed coming to taxpayers for needed major upgrades as plans for the Community Center developed. We support the long-range cost-savings of a comprehensive project for safe, functional and energy efficient programs for our community and schools. As the 50% plan leaves Pod C unrenovated, we cannot support that option.

Sincerely,

Lincoln School Committee

cc: Dan Pereira, Assistant Town Administrator

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The Lincoln School Committee has authorized basic maintenance and held back major capital requests for the Hartwell Pods, Strat's Place playground, the adjacent parking lot and Ballfield Road for more than a decade as the town considered whether to construct a Community Center on the school campus. We have covered utility costs of the programs of the town Parks and Recreation Department -- including Codman Pool -- and the Lincoln Extended-Day Activities program.

If Town Meeting decides to approve building a Community Center on school property and voters approve funding, the School Committee will support our administration in plans to provide temporary accommodations for these programs during construction.

If Town Meeting decides not to build a Community Center at this time, the School Committee will begin examining long-term needs of the pods and surroundings. Continuing to struggle to maintain the pods in their current obsolete condition would not provide value to these town programs or to the schools, obliging us to come back to future Town Meetings with requests for design and engineering, and then later, for renovation or new construction costs.