



Supporting Quality Education that is Affordable to All Groton Citizens

Dear Friends and Fellow Taxpayers,

On Monday, May 2nd the voters of Groton will be asked to go to the polls and vote on the proposed Phase II Building Plan. The plan includes the following items:

- Creating two Early Childhood Centers which will house Kindergarten and Grade 1 students. These facilities will also add a new locally funded, non-mandated full-day PreK program for four year-olds. These centers will be created by renovating West Side Middle School and S. B. Butler Elementary.
- Restructuring five elementary schools to house Grades 2-6. This will be done by renovating Cutler Middle School and reorganizing Catherine Kolnaski, Charles Barnum, Mary Morrisson, and Northeast Academy Elementary Schools.
- Building one new middle school for Grades 7 and 8 on the current Claude Chester School property. Entrances to the school would be located on Rt. 117 and at Poquonnock Plains Park.
- Installing artificial turf on the football field at Fitch High School.
- Closing Claude Chester and Pleasant Valley Elementary Schools.

The cost of the building plan is \$133 million dollars. The Town anticipates that the state will provide reimbursement for some portion of this plan, however, there is no guarantee of what, if any, funds will be received. At the height of the repayment process, an increase in real estate taxes of over 6 million dollars per year will be required to pay for this project, impacting all residents both property owners and renters alike.

Friends for Affordable Education do not believe that this project is in the best interest of Groton residents nor does it meet the educational needs of our children. **We urge you to Vote NO** on Monday, May 2nd. **We do support** quality, affordable education that does not force taxpayers out of their homes nor confuse our student population with yet another redistricting plan within the past four years. We believe this can be achieved with other building solutions and renovation plans.

Today we are seeking your help and support to spread the word to Groton taxpayers and help defeat this referendum. Your support of \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250 or whatever amount you can afford will aid in making our mission a success. Please mail your check today along with the enclosed form. We are also seeking volunteers to assist in delivering door-to-door materials, visible sign locations, and volunteers to make phone calls and write letters. Please contact us today if you can help in this cause. Groton's future depends on it.

Thank you for your support and assistance,

Andrew Parrella, Chairman
(860) 501-1104
amparrella@aol.com

Rosanne Kotowski, Treasurer
860-536-1733
rkotowski@sbcglobal.net



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Paid for by Friends for Affordable Education, Rosanne Kotowski, Treasurer