

Friends For Affordable Education

Who Are We?

Citizens concerned about the cost and performance of education in the Groton Public School System.

Why Do We Oppose Phase II?

The State and Town of Groton's economy is laden with debt. This project would add \$6,000,000 per year to the Town's operating budget, requiring more reduction in local services. It would add another empty school building to the present inventory of four others. The project also contains frivolous elements, such as an expensive artificial turf field at Fitch Senior High School.

The project adds another class year, pre-school to the K-12 system, with no state reimbursement or funding, which also competes with the more cost efficient private sector.

The Claude Chester site was already considered not appropriate by the Phase I Committee in a 2003 architecture plan for reasons of safety, flooding and vehicle traffic. How can it now be an appropriate site no when none of these factors have changed?

This plan would cause yet another disruption in school assignments (redistricting) for the student population who have only recently been relocated. In addition, we have a declining school population.

The citizen of Groton were assured that there would be a savings as a result of closing four schools in Phase I. This savings has not been realized. The new buildings in Phase I have unresolved building issues such as leaking.

How Do We Address An Aging School System?

We feel the best approach is to renovate and expand existing structures. We recommend the appointment of a new building committee to pare the projects down to the bare necessities.

What About The Diversity Issue?

We feel that parents should be provided, where possible, with school choice opportunities and after school learning centers as means to meet the state requirements.