
From: Tisbury School Building Committee <tisburyschoolproject@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 5:54 PM
To: Harold Chapdelaine; John Custer; Sean DeBettencourt; Peter Gearhart; Rita Jeffers; Reade Milne; James Rogers; Michael Watts; Richard Marks (Daedalus/CHA); Chris Blessen (Tappe); Christina Opper (Daedalus/CHA); Marni Lipke; Matt Barnhart (Tappe)
Subject: [--EXTERNAL--]: Fwd: Concept Design Vote

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **ben robinson** <phraluang@yahoo.com>
Date: Tue, Jul 21, 2020 at 4:12 PM
Subject: Concept Design Vote
To: <tisburyschoolproject@gmail.com>

To the Tisbury School Building Committee,

I am hoping the committee will discuss reconsidering the move from the concept phase into the schematic phase at your next meeting.

As I am sure you all are aware, this vote has a contractual component, and significantly limits what can change within the voted upon concept.

It is unwise to move forward with a concept that has so many obvious design flaws, and those should certainly be resolved in the concept phase before advancing to the schematic phase.

Some of these flaws broadly speaking are:

- Natural Light

The media/commons spaces, cafeteria and foreign language room lack natural lighting and a visual connection to the outside

- Significant Interior Changes

These result in additional costs for a low return, changes to stairwells and interior walls, locations of bathrooms all add cost without showing enough added benefit

- Scale

The addition in relation to the existing building is poorly organized to preserve the elegant simplicity of the existing building and seems to only add to the visual clutter of the Spring St. side

- Cafeteria Space

This space is awkwardly located in the newly formed circulation space and crowds the kindergarten and courtyard access to the buildings services

- Gym Space

As you undoubtedly have already heard from me on this, I will try to state it again succinctly.

This is an effort towards understanding fiscal tradeoffs and cost ramifications of including a new gym in the concept proposal, with all its associated ancillary spaces, locker rooms etc.

If there is any effort or willingness by the committee to reign in the overall cost of the project this would be the first item to evaluate.

It also sets up much of the addition, since it also represents the largest amount of square footage being added, and removed. And, in my mind, does not fit into the primary educational needs, as it is currently adequate for the basic needs of physical education, and can be adjusted in ways to alleviate the perceived deficiencies.

- Cost

This is perhaps the most critical issue in regard to a successful project for our town.

We cannot afford to have another design voted down and then head back to the drawing board, we also cannot afford for the the Town to take on such a heavy cost burden, especially when we have other significant spending projects in the near future and while we face uncertain economic times.

This should give everyone on the committee tremendous pause as to what kind of financial state we leave our town regarding this project.

We should not put such an ask to the voters, it is a lose-lose proposition if this is the plan we move forward with.

I politely ask that the committee rescind their vote to move into schematic design, and continue with concept explorations that will deliver a more financially rational and ultimately successful project.

Our school facility should represent the best we can provide for our current and future students, and sometimes that also means accepting the realities of our small town with limited resources.

It also is a moment to teach an learn a lesson about how we should strive to live on this island and this planet.

For far too long we have trended towards an overlay wasteful and consumptive society, and this behavior is literally killing the habitability of our world.

I know this project is slated to move significantly towards being net-zero and without fossil fuels, both necessary directions, but we must also consider resource extraction and materials, not just how healthy they are for the end user, but how healthy they are for the entire supply chain, and how much we are using overall.

Education of future generations must embody these critical lessons, so we can strive for a more just and equitable and safe world. It is a tall order to place on any committee, yet here we are, in the year 2020, grappling with these existential questions.

I have always wanted a successful project, one we can all be proud of, and one that does not force our fixed income long time town residents to face unaffordable tax burdens, we owe them much and we should consider them so.

Thanks you for the consideration,
Ben Robinson

Ben Robinson
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