

Letter to the editor: Vote ‘yes’ for unified school in Scarborough

pressherald.com/2023/10/21/letter-to-the-editor-vote-yes-for-unified-school-in-scarborough

October 21, 2023



As one of the chairs of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee for the Scarborough Public School District, I’ve witnessed the increasing numbers and unique needs of multilingual learners in our schools. Our teachers, administration and staff have stepped up in powerful ways to serve every student, but they need our support. As a community we have a moral imperative to care for one another and support our youngest members.

The unified school project takes anticipated growth and equity into account in ways that make me proud to support the proposal. Bringing our young learners together into one school and ensuring they are thoughtfully combined into smaller learning communities will support and unify them in a way that has never been possible. It ensures all our students have a safe, welcoming environment in which they will thrive.

Join me in voting “Yes” in support of the school on Nov. 7.

Rev. Nicole Diroff
Scarborough

Letters to the editor Oct. 20

 [pressherald.com/2023/10/02/letters-to-the-editor-oct-13-2](https://www.pressherald.com/2023/10/02/letters-to-the-editor-oct-13-2)

October 2, 2023



Vote yes on school bond

To the editor,

Three years ago, my family drove to Scarborough to see a house for sale. We were early so we grabbed a Hot-n-Ready from Little Caesar's and found a nearby playground which we would learn was Eight Corners. Having seen other nearby towns, this shabby collection of portables was disappointing. "Is this really the elementary school? You can't even walk to it!"

We finished our pizza, and after the neighborhood made a strong impression, and our realtor assured us this is a "good" school district, we made an offer and never looked back.

We love it here. We've experienced firsthand the great staff and families that make up our schools. Eventually, however, people are going to start to believe their eyes when they see these facilities.

Anyone who might have nostalgia for these old schools, I empathize, but I assure you, the thing you are nostalgic for no longer exists. Quality updated public-school facilities are something any town should prioritize. Schools are the "front door" of the town, the thing everyone sees and forms an impression on.

The math isn't hard. If schools are important and we just experienced an influx of new tax-paying families necessitating a new one, we ought to be able to figure it out collectively. Investing in Scarborough via the K-8 Strategic Solution is in the best interest of all residents, if the idea of having a nice town means anything. I'm voting yes.

Matt Fredette
Scarborough

Letters to the editor Oct. 20

 pressherald.com/2023/10/02/letters-to-the-editor-oct-13-2

October 2, 2023



To the editor,

On September 2nd, 2023, I landed what will undoubtedly be the best job I will ever have, motherhood. The last five weeks have been a whirlwind of sleepless nights, newborn snuggles, and countless diaper changes, but what has resonated with me the most is how thankful I am to have moved back to my hometown of Scarborough to be surrounded by my family and friends. Their love and support has been such a blessing and it has reminded me of how lucky I was to grow up in Pleasant Hill.

I have been following the progress made regarding the consolidated school and it is clear to me what an immense amount of work has gone into the proposal on the ballot in November. This proposal has been painstakingly thought out over multiple years and it is long overdue, as too many of our students are already spending their school days in portables. I feel incredibly lucky to live in a community where so many members are willing to put in their time, effort, and often nights away from their own kids to develop this proposal. I am truly excited at the prospect of sending my son to a school that has been specifically designed to meet his learning needs and will allow him to flourish during some of the most formative years of his life. I encourage everyone to vote yes for the consolidated school proposal and the future of our Scarborough little ones, they deserve it.

Kate Traw
Scarborough

Letter to the editor: Scarborough school proposal as good as it gets

pressherald.com/2023/10/14/letter-to-the-editor-scarborough-school-proposal-as-good-as-it-gets

October 14, 2023



I am writing in support of the unified school project in Scarborough.

I recently came across [a letter to the editor](#) that suggested that temporary solutions, while not perfect, would “buy us a year while we figure out a better solution.” It’s important to note that this [school project](#) was originally conceived in 2014 and since has undergone numerous rounds of thoughtful proposals. The process has consistently included opportunities for public input, participation and suggestions at every stage. Any assertion to the contrary, which aims to generate fear or uncertainty, is misleading.

We are now faced with a decision that calls for us to support what the town and school believe is the best solution to address the multifaceted and complex challenges our students and staff are and will continue to face.

Please join me in showing support for our teachers, staff and students by voting “yes” on Nov. 7.

Sarah Leighton
Scarborough

Letters to the editor, Oct. 6

 pressherald.com/2023/09/25/letters-to-the-editor-sept-29-2

September 25, 2023



Vote yes on bond to fund new K-3 school

To the editor,

The unified primary school project is the right solution for Scarborough Public Schools and here are 5 reasons to vote yes on the unified primary school project in November.

5. The District currently has 30 portables/modulars, more than half are over 20 years old. They're not safe and I don't want my child attending class in one—would you?

4. If we delay, costs will go up and instead of investing in a long-term solution we will be throwing our tax money into a triage emergency short term fix.

3. US News and World Report currently ranks the Scarborough Schools eighth in our state. It's a huge reason my family, and many others, have chosen Scarborough to make our home. We can't let our academic quality become eroded by our subpar facilities.

2. At the tours of the three primary schools earlier this spring we heard of the intense efforts required to make spaces fit our current population of students. Gyms need to quickly become cafeterias and then immediately change over to meeting spaces. These added facilities challenges can affect our district's ability to recruit and retain our high caliber teachers, too.

1. We can't just be known as the town with the new Costco. Scarborough's development has outpaced investment in our infrastructure and our children are paying the price. I encourage voters in November to vote in support of the unified primary school project and do right by these kids who are the future of our town.

Abigail Henry
Scarborough

Letters to the Editor, Sept. 15

 pressherald.com/2023/09/11/letters-to-the-editor-sept-15

September 11, 2023



Support school bond in November

To the editor,

Over three years ago, I joined the School Building Committee because I recognized the immediate need for structured long-term planning to support Scarborough teachers and students. Our goal was to reassess the previous work that had been completed and determine the optimal school solution. We quickly determined it was prohibitively expensive and physically not feasible to renovate and expand the existing three schools and build a fourth school. The optimal choice for safety, security, transportation, educational services, and cost, was to build a new K-3 school which also eliminates overcrowding at the middle school.

I along with many other volunteers, experts, and professionals, have devoted hundreds of hours analyzing capacity plans for schools, researching available land locations in Scarborough, and talking with community members and educators to ensure we crafted the best possible solution.

If we fail to act on this proposed solution, we will move forward with additional temporary facilities, which will drive additional capital, additional operating expenses, and further delay a permanent solution. This results in 5-8% added project costs for each year of delay that is an increased cost of 8-13MM next year and compounding each year after that.

I appeal to you to take time to review available information and make an informed decision. On behalf of myself and the building committee, we welcome the opportunity to share details with you and answer your questions. We are here to support our students, teachers and community keeping Scarborough a great community now and for future generations.

Dana Fortier

Chair – School Building Committee

[Scarborough High School student earns her solo wings](#)

[Autumn & Ales 5K/10K/Half Marathon Road Race rescheduled](#)

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Letters to the editor, Sept. 1

 pressherald.com/2023/08/28/letters-to-the-editor-sept-1-2

August 28, 2023



New, unified elementary school best solution

To the editor,

Our primary schools have creatively saved taxpayer money at our youngest learner's and teacher's expense. My mother, an educator in Scarborough for 42 years, spent her last 13 years in Scarborough teaching in a portable trailer. She retired 8 years ago and the now 21 year old portable trailer remains in use today.

Our primary and middle schools do not meet the safety, security, educational services and enrollment demands of our town. The business case clearly indicates, a patch work approach of adding a 4th school and renovating the existing schools is prohibitively expensive and will not solve the problem.

Over the past three years the building committee, comprised of community members, school board members and educators have spent countless hours researching, developing, and evaluating options to solve the school building problem.

Moving forward with a district wide solution that builds a new unified school and relieves overcrowding of the middle school is the solution that best meets the needs of our growing student population and is most fiscally responsible for our town. Our children's future depends on our action right now, which is why we must come together to support the unified school.

Maryella Fortier

Letters to the Editor, Aug. 26

 pressherald.com/2023/08/21/letters-to-the-editor-aug-26

August 21, 2023



Scarborough's Consolidated K-3 School Proposal

To the editor,

This November Scarborough citizens likely will have an opportunity to vote whether or not to build a consolidated K-3 school. Grappling with school facilities has been an ongoing exercise since the mid-80s. Only this time, unlike all previous school expansions or new construction, the preferred site is not owned by the town.

It's an important decision being asked of the voters. I urge our elected officials, staff and stakeholders involved to assess the proposal objectively. Put aside any preconceived biases and/or assumptions. The voters deserve continued due diligence in an effort to reach a satisfactory decision that's best for our community.

I urge voters to learn of the proposal's pros and cons and how the Building Committee arrived at its recommendation. Not necessarily from neighbors and friends, but by checking the information available online or speaking with the people directly involved in the process. Likewise, pay attention to the Town Council's negotiations with The Downs regarding the recommended site.

The reality is, Scarborough is an asset-wealthy community that will continue to grow. It's an attractive community with annually one of the lowest tax rates in the area, a diversified commercial base that keeps the tax rate low and many attractive natural amenities. As voters, we have a responsibility to make an informed decision. Updating our primary schools and systemwide overcrowding has to be addressed sooner or later.

Roger Beeley
Scarborough