

The Following information in Red Italics is the Uxbridge School Building Committee's responses, requested by "Taxpayers for a New High School", to the Yellow Flyer distributed by the "CFSSS"

Vote NO on Tuesday, June 22

Special Election asking the Taxpayers of Uxbridge to Pay for a NEW High School

10 reasons why you should Vote NO

CFSSS - The project being voted on was CHOSEN AGAINST THE RECOMMENDATION of the Massachusetts School Building Authority which called for Complete Renovations and Additions to All Three of our Current Schools

SBC Response – The “Preferred Project Status” required by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) is determined by the extensive research compiled by the Uxbridge School Building Committee. The MSBA has never made a recommendation for a Preferred Project. The recommendation from the MSBA is to let each town decide which Preferred Project best fits the needs of the school district and the town as a whole. The Preferred Project, build a New High School, is the collective and unanimous decision by the Uxbridge School Building Committee and voted favorably by the Uxbridge School Committee, Uxbridge Board of Selectman (by unanimous decision to set up a Special Town Meeting and ballot vote for the Preferred Project) and The Uxbridge Finance Committee. There is only one project being considered, build a New High School on the town owned land on Quaker Highway. The MSBA specifically stated the renovation of our schools was only a concept and should not be considered a project option, or their recommendation, due to the lack of consideration for educational programming of space which is the number one priority of this project.

The Preferred Project is the towns best opportunity to correct our schools space needs, set the bar higher for an improved educational facility and show the New England Association of School and Colleges how much the

residents of Uxbridge care about the education of our children and our community as a whole. The MSBA's architect reviewing the Statement of Interest from the town for the MSBA, visited each school and developed a preliminary sketch of each school based on the MSBA's concept for renovating each current town owned school building. These sketches were reviewed by the Uxbridge School Building Committee and deemed conceptual and never considered this to be a viable option at any time before or after the Architect visited the schools.

CFSSS - Building a New High School will create UNSUSTAINABLE Budgets and NEGATIVELY Affect All Town Services

SBC Response - There is no factual support for this statement. As they have in the past, the School Committee and Administration will devise future budgets for the school district as a whole in a "sustainable" manner, given the changing financial parameters in each Fiscal Year. Further, statistics from other Commonwealth communities indicate new construction brings two results: more school choice-in revenue and stimulation for new economic development, all of which translates into more money for the town's use for municipal services as well as schools.

There is a pertinent business expression, "If you are not moving forward, you are moving backward." For over ten years we have postponed this decision which is now at the crisis point. While conditions may not be optimal for all, an "investment" must be made in the Uxbridge school system and further delay is not a viable economic option.

CFSSS - Many Debt Exclusion OVERRIDES will be Required to Complete and Maintain a New High School

SBC Response - There are no overrides being considered for maintaining the New High School. The New High School will take approximately two years to build and it is difficult to speculate what the town revenues will be at the time.

The Uxbridge Superintendent of Schools showed an annual operating cost for the new school of \$313,122.00 after the lease space cost has been removed. He further suggested that if 60 students were to choose to go to Uxbridge schools from the current list of school choice out students, the savings would cover the annual operating cost for the new school.

CFSSS - The project being voted on DOES NOT INCLUDE Any of the Costs for Renovations or Additions to our Current Schools

SBC Response - The MSBA grant process only allows one school project to be included with each Statement of Interest (SOI) submitted by each town to the MSBA. The Town of Uxbridge has the opportunity to issue an additional SOI and take

advantage of the current program and other Green initiatives to renovate any other school building it deems necessary. The School Building Committee has recommended to the Uxbridge Board of Selectmen to consider the options if they so choose.

CFSSS - Our Property Taxes and Tax Rate will DRAMATICALLY INCREASE

SBC Response - It is the consideration of the Uxbridge School Building Committee to provide more learning and teaching space to accommodate the realignment of all grades, relieving overcrowded conditions at the Taft and Whitin Schools and save accreditation with the New England Association of School and Colleges. Better learning and teaching space will also make it simpler and easier for parents and students who live in Uxbridge and surrounding towns to make a decision to stay in Uxbridge Public Schools or to choice in to Uxbridge Public Schools and provide the opportunity for growth in our town which will attract more revenue and provide more tax dollars to the town of Uxbridge.

CFSSS - Our Taxes and Cost of Living are Already Increasing at a MUCH FASTER RATE than our Incomes

SBC Response - This project gives this town the opportunity to change its image to a town which prioritizes the education of its students and to build momentum for the future while attracting new commercial business to boost our tax revenue base.

CFSSS - We CAN'T EVEN AFFORD to Repair our Deteriorating Bridges or Properly Maintain our Current Schools

SBC Response - Throughout this process the School Building Committee and the MSBA have recognized the great work this town has done with our ongoing School Building Maintenance program for maintaining and upgrading our school buildings. This is a major factor the MSBA has reviewed and recognized while considering and committing their time and resources to the investment in this project and to the Town of Uxbridge.

CFSSS - Building a New High School COSTS MORE than the MSBA's Complete Renovation and Addition Plan

SBC Response – Again the MSBA's conceptual plan did not include educational programming space and therefore could not be considered a viable option for the Preferred Project. The other option once considered by the School Building Committee was a renovation of the existing High School which would have cost the town approximately one million dollars less than the new building. The cost for this option did not include modular or swing space needed for a three to five year

renovation, would not satisfy the overcrowded conditions in the Taft and Whitin Schools and would require the relocation of some current athletic fields on land not currently planned for or owned by the Town.

CFSSS - *There will be a DRAMATIC INCREASE in the Cost of Busing Students*

SBC Response – The cost of busing students could very well be reduced or stay the same with a less congested traffic plan created by having a fourth building. This plan is reviewed on an annual basis by the School Administration for establishing the best possible routes. Some of the current bus routes utilize the Quaker Highway which includes passing the New High School location.

CFSSS - It HAS NOT been shown or proven that Building a New High School will improve Education or MCAS Results

SBC Response – The addition of the New High School and the realignment of all other grades in the district will provide a better learning environment for all students and a better place for the faculty to teach in at all four schools. Many Studies have been performed and Data has confirmed Educational Facilities have a direct impact on Student learning and test scores improve in facilities that are well lit, ventilated and with sufficient learning space provided. Proper facilities will help the school district keep the teacher we currently have and continue to attract top level teachers and administrators in the future.

Original Document Paid for by Citizens For Sensible School Solutions
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***Responded to in Red Italics by the Uxbridge School Building Committee
June 5, 2010***

***The Uxbridge School Building Committee supports a
vote YES on Saturday June 19th and Tuesday June 22nd***

Vote NO on Tuesday, June 22

Special Election asking the Taxpayers of Uxbridge to Pay for a NEW High School

To vote NO, you must be registered to vote!

Deadline to register is Wednesday, June 2

Register at the Town Clerk's Office

Citizens For Sensible School Solutions We live in and love

Uxbridge, and only want what's best for our town and community"

Contact us to get involved, make a donation, or arrange for a ride to the polls

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