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To: All Island Boards of Selectmen
FR: Chilmark Selectmen
Cc: Superintendent of Schools
DT: May 13, 2019
Subject - Another Special Town Meeting? Really?

Our School Committees are comprised of volunteer citizens from our towns who put in time, effort and thought throughout each year to serve the interests of our community. We all owe them our thanks. Our School Administration is comprised of professionals who are compensated to provide leadership, management and oversight of our educational efforts. They owe us professional performance.

We request that the School Administration withdraw the this week's request for another additional Special Town meeting.

This year, after budgets were received, warrant articles were crafted and Annual Town Meetings were posted, the town was asked by the School Administration to amend their budget proposals. Later, we received notice that due to a review of relevant law it would be necessary to call Special Town Meetings. This was to deal with E&D funds that had not been part of the annual budget. Three of the six towns called STMs. Yesterday, on May 9th, the towns received emails stating that they were about to receive notice to call an additional STM to vote on more E&D funds and to authorize debt to lease a new school bus.

Requiring two STMs in a three month period that also includes an Annual Town Meeting flies in the face of common sense and concern for the voters. STMs present an additional (and unbudgeted) financial burden to the towns and, more important, they require an additional commitment of time from each Town's citizens. It would be tempting for a Town to simply not call the additional STM. But, critically, the failure of a town to call a STM is regarded as an affirmative vote by that town. The town's voters should decide on spending, but if towns do not call another STM, the voters do not get to vote.

The current situation reflects a lack of leaderships and oversight.

Right now our towns are struggling to come to grips with funding the enormity of a potential \$120,000,000 Regional High School rebuild/renovation. It is imperative that we have confidence in the financial numbers presented by our School Administration.

I am requesting a meeting of the All Island Selectmen to discuss the status quo.

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