

Chilmark Select Board  
Town Hall  
401 Middle Road  
Chilmark, MA 02535-0119

May 9, 2019

Re: Chilmark School HVAC Project (Phase 2)

In my role as chair of the town's Energy and Finance Advisory Committees, I would like to bring to your attention a number of issues with the above referenced project, which after several years of delay and discussion has still not progressed beyond the preparatory stage. In my opinion, the newly revised UIRSD plans, if carried out, are inappropriate for the school and financially questionable.

First, the current statement of work is completely different than the work for which we (and the other UIRSD towns) appropriated funds in the spring of 2018. The work contemplated in the new SOW is simply "removal and replacement of selected existing HVAC components". In fact, the plan now is to add an oil-fired boiler and replace one or more water pumps. It does not address the inadequate control systems, the need for insulation in the building to reduce wasted heating energy and increase comfort, or fix the excessively noisy ventilation system installed in an earlier phase. In other words, the plan as I understand it is not responsive to the HVAC issues identified and continually pointed out by the school staff.

Second, the addition of a second oil-fired boiler (as a back up to the relatively new boiler currently providing heat and hot water) is inappropriate for a 21<sup>st</sup> century municipal building. Installation of an electric heat pump primary HVAC approach, with the existing boiler as backup and hot water supply, will provide both heating and air conditioning – just as the HVAC upgrade to the Community Center will accomplish. Further, over a relatively short period of time I am confident that this approach will provide a significant cost savings for the town and the school district. Green Communities funds are potentially available for a significant fraction of the needed work; not so for the current plan.

Finally, a tour of the building in February revealed that the ventilation system previously installed could be interfering with the sprinkler system in several rooms. I am not a fire safety engineer, but if this is indeed the case we should initiate an inspection by the appropriate fire personnel.

I respectfully suggest that a Select Board review of this project is in order.

Sincerely,



Rob Hannemann

Cc: Susan Stevens, Head of School  
Robert Lionette