



MILLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Superintendent of Schools

Nancy L. Gustafson

April 23, 2019

Jodie Garzon
Chair, Millis Finance Committee
Town Of Millis

Dear Madam Chairperson, Members of the Finance Committee

We are writing this letter to strongly support the construction/renovation of a new Department of Public Works Facility. Beyond the advantages that this will present to the Millis DPW that you are already aware of, the Millis Public Schools will also gain at least four distinct advantages with the completion of this project.

1. The inclusion of an office for the Transportation Director that will be on-site where the buses leave from and arrive back to is a huge advantage, allowing the Director the opportunity to interact with the drivers on a regular basis and to intervene with specific drivers as needed. In most districts the Transportation Director's office is always on site with the buses. This also would give the Director the ability to be more hands on and timely when buses have issues.
2. The availability of bathrooms for our bus drivers at the location where their buses are parked is also a huge improvement to working conditions. It could be argued that current conditions violate sections of the Fair Labor Standards Act; this will correct this issue. This also would give us the space for the training for drivers that is required by law.
3. Speaking of bus parking, the buses will now be parked in a designed, thoughtful, and planned method that should accommodate all of our 77 passenger buses without creating issues for DPW vehicles. This is a benefit for both the school and the town.
4. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the design incorporates a space that in the future could be built to be a bus repair bay. Should the School District be able to find funding for such a bay, and then hire a mechanic, it would be able to perform much of its own routine maintenance, saving the Town of Millis money and getting buses back on the road faster with less wear and tear.

In short, we respectfully urge your support for this project.

Sincerely,

Nancy Gustafson
Superintendent

Terry L. Wiggin
Business Manager

Small School...Big Family

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