



http://www.townonline.com/reading/news/opinion/ra_letralittleb02192003.htm

Letter: Resident says 'enough'

Wednesday, February 19, 2003

I've had enough.

Enough of Building Pride. Disseminating false information about safety conditions and maintenance at our high school, in an effort to get support for a \$54 million demolition and renovation, does not build pride for members of that organization.

Enough of the School Committee. Laying off teachers and classroom aides due to severe budget constraints, while handing out bonuses to principals and secretaries and buying back vacation time, does not show fairness and equity to the heart and soul of our schools.

Enough of Superintendent Harutunian. Belittling residents who disagree with his views and intimidating others into silence for fear of retribution, when he should be encouraging debate and dialogue, does not inspire trust and confidence in the man who leads our school system.

Enough of Town Meeting. Approving every multi-million dollar school project without any attempt to minimize or prioritize, at a time when residents already are overspent and overtaxed, does not demonstrate the leadership necessary to address the town's serious financial crisis.

Finally, enough of Parents for Educational Progress (PEP). Distributing inaccurate information about a new elementary school, knowing that declining enrollment levels make a new school unnecessary, does not further the pursuit of educational excellence.

Nor does manipulating residents into wrongly believing that the Barrows school renovation project cannot move forward without construction of a new school.

Nor does deceiving residents by failing to mention that the two elementary school projects are way down on the state's "B" list for reimbursement - after the 46 school projects on the state's "A" list.

Nor does scaring residents by telling them tales of overcrowded elementary school classrooms, while some are unoccupied or underutilized and an all-day kindergarten program is set to begin.

Nor does misleading residents into assuming that another \$2.5 million is all that's needed to pay for a new

school, when there is no money set aside in the town's budget to cover the first \$9.1 million it would cost to build a school, plus \$250,000 or more in additional costs each year to staff, operate and maintain a school.

Yes, I have had enough distortion, enough fabrication and enough misrepresentation from these groups and individuals - just not enough civility, integrity, and honesty.

Denis Linnane Summit Towers

http://www.townonline.com/reading/news/opinion/ra_letralittleb02192003.htm



Copyright by TownOnline.com and Herald Interactive Advertising Systems, Inc. No portion of TownOnline.com or its content may be reproduced without the owner's written permission. [Privacy Commitment](#)