

Town of Lincoln

Lincoln Town Offices

16 Lincoln Road
Lincoln, MA 01773
Ph: 781-259-2600
FAX: 781-259-8735



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Jonathan Dwyer, Chairman

James Craig

Jennifer Glass

Over the past few days, we came together as a town to discuss and debate the Lincoln School project. It was a complex issue, requiring a careful balance of needs and values, and one that asked each of us for a significant financial commitment.

At the December 1st Special Town Meeting, almost a thousand residents came to learn about the project, ask questions, and share both their support and reservations. It was an informative, respectful conversation that wrote another chapter in Lincoln's long history of democratic discourse. Yesterday, over 1600 residents went to the ballot to cast their votes. The Lincoln School project passed with more than a 2/3 majority both at Town Meeting and at the ballot.

The Board congratulates the School Building Committee (SBC) on bringing forward a project that was able to achieve such a high level of approval. As expressed in our statement of support, the Board recognizes the SBC's efforts to conduct a process that demonstrated a capacity to listen, and was transparent and open to all. The past few days underscored the importance and effectiveness of that work.

During the last several weeks, many citizens raised concerns about the impact of the project on individuals and on the long-term character of the town. As a Board, we remain committed to Lincoln's mission of fostering multiple definitions of diversity, and we will continue to work on both a holistic planning vision for the town, and on maximizing programs that help individuals. We will need, and we welcome, your help.

It's with deep gratitude that the Board thanks the individuals who listened to the community conversation and decided to take individual actions to lessen the financial impact of our collective decision. The "School Bond Reduction Account" was established to directly lower the total amount the town will need to borrow for the school project. Individuals who wish to contribute should contact the Lincoln Finance & Accounting Department, located on the lower level of Town Offices. In addition, a group of individuals has pledged a significant amount of money to augment current programs or to establish a new program to offer economic assistance. The Board applauds these efforts, and supports their implementation.

The town has been thinking about a school renovation project for almost two decades. The Board believes that the resolution of this question strengthens our community. Many people have given their

time and talent to this process. We are thankful for the energy and commitment of our volunteers, we are fortunate to have a professional town staff so dedicated to our community, and we are grateful to the citizens of Lincoln for their ability to hold a lively, thoughtful, respectful, and ultimately collaborative, debate. Seeing so many people at Town Meeting was energizing! We hope it is the harbinger of many Town Meetings to come.

Respectfully,

Jonathan Dwyer, Chair

James Craig

Jennifer Glass