



Brookline PAX

think globally • act locally

December 10, 2018

I'm personally very pleased to report that Brookline PAX's Board of Directors (see below [website](#), then "[About](#),") in a well-attended meeting last night, and by far more than our 60% threshold for endorsements, voted to urge Favorable Action on arts. 2-3-4 , i.e. NO on the delaying substitute motion @ the Thurs. Dec. 13th T/Mtg.

In essence it came down to "seeking the perfect would be the disgraceful enemy of the desperately/shamefully-needed good."

After an hour of presentations by, and hard questioning of, 2 School Committee members (pro & con), the discussion focused primarily on our horrific overcrowding that's victimizing hundreds of our kids, including special needs kids, as well as many teachers, a pathetic stain that's been intensely studied to -- we now hope -- death (for about 11 lloongg years!), including the hopeless fantasy of finding real additional space north of Route 9, where -- like gambling in Casablanca -- yes, there are more kids. It's long past the time for real/concrete action, not more studies (& debates) -- & delays.

Yes, there are legitimate concerns like walkability, cars, & traffic -- as well as debating/speculating about future enrollment projections, preserving greenspace, overrides' prospects, and the (seemingly weak) lawsuit. (We do urge maximizing Fossil-Fuel-Free buildings; and minimizing redistricting into unwalkable schools for kids now walking to school.) But, 1st, see above "perfect ...good,"; and 2nd, these are all answerable, at best speculative, and clearly unpersuasive "trees" -- red herrings that have been used to muck up the seemingly obvious forest: WE NEED A NEW SCHOOL. ASAP, yesterday, for a decade!

Support for public schools & education has been a core priority both for PAX since its 1962 founding, and for Brookline's community -- at least since I went K-12 here, like my daughter far-far more recently.

PAX's founders Ethel & Ben Alper, and our heroes like Sen. Jack Backman & Frank Farlow, would turn over in their graves at the thought of prolonging this 11-year debate. As per Sam Cooke, "It's been a long, a long time coming, But I know a change gon' come, oh yes it will!" WE NEED A NEW SCHOOL -- ASAP!

Marty Rosenthal, Chair

Neil Gordon, Secretary

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www.BrooklinePAX.org