

Mary Calorio

From: Jamie Maheu <jmaheu@killinglyschools.org>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 11:29 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: In favor of K.M.S. school project

I am a second grade teacher at K.M.S. and I pray that this goes through as it would really support the learning environment for our students! It has been needed for quite some time. Our students and the staff deserve these significant improvements to our school! Thank you!

Mary Calorio

From: Nancy Dubois <ndubois@killinglyschools.org>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 11:36 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Renovation proposal at Killingly Memorial School

I am writing in favor of the proposed renovations to Killingly Memorial School. I have been the principal's secretary at KMS for the last 22 years. I am also a "graduate" of Killingly Memorial School and of Killingly High School.

I was at KMS when what we now call the old modular was installed as a temporary measure. At that time I attended my library class on the gym stage. I was working at KMS when the new modular classrooms were installed also as a temporary measure. Both modular buildings are still part of KMS.

The changes to KMS over the last three years have been much needed, and appreciated by all here at KMS. We have experienced too many roof leaks into classrooms and some that caused three inch flood waters down our hallways. We have come to school and work for years bundled in layers due to the decaying windows.

I have an true affinity for this building. I know KMS from top to bottom. I believe it to be strong and sturdy but we need to continue the good works that have been started. We need to have permanent classrooms for children to learn in every day. We need updating, we need a little more room. We need to have some climate control in the entire building other than sweltering and freezing. We need to continue the ADA accommodations that were begun.

Nancy DuBois



Assistant to the Principal
Killingly Memorial School
860-779-6683

Mary Calorio

From: Heidi Hand <hhand@killinglyschools.org>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 11:38 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: KMS Renovation/Addition Project

Dear Town Council Members,

I am writing in support of the renovation and addition project for KMS. Our school has wonderful things happening in it, but sadly so many parts of the building are in disrepair. We also require more space than what we have now. Currently, children must also walk through two parking lots to get to the playground.

The difference in the physical quality of the school buildings in Killingly is vast. Our older students are fortunate to learn in beautiful, modern buildings, while students at KMS are in crowded conditions with poor ventilation. While school is in session, I must keep my windows open in order to provide adequate ventilation during the COVID pandemic. This is not ideal during the winter months.

Floors contain asbestos tile, counters are covered with scratched and stained laminate that cannot be fixed, and cupboard doors are broken, sagging, and in disrepair.

I have never worked in a more caring and professional school system than the Killingly Public Schools. I urge you to take advantage of the state's current reimbursement offer and provide KMS students with the school building that they so richly deserve.

Sincerely,

Heidi Hand

Heidi Hand
Third Grade Teacher
Killingly Memorial School

Killingly Public Schools
Great Things Happen Here!



Mary Calorio

From: Kristine Kamara <kkamara@killinglyschools.org>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 11:51 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: KMS Renovation

I fully support the KMS renovation project with the expanded plan. Not only have I been a teacher in the district since 2005, but I am also a resident of Killingly. My three children attend KIS and KCS. The KMS building is in need of repair and is not up to the same standards as the other buildings in our district. Our elementary students should have the opportunity to learn in an environment that is up to date, with proper systems in place. The best way to fix our building is through a renovation and now is the time to do it!

Kristine Kamara
Special Education Teacher
Killingly Memorial School
kkamara@killinglyschools.org

1014 Upper Maple St

Mary Calorio

From: Tiffany O'Leary <toleary@killinglyschools.org>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 11:59 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: KMS Project

Good day. My name is Tiffany O'Leary and I am the Killingly Public School's District Physical Therapist. I support students' specialized instruction through either IEP or 504 plans. My job at each of the 5 Killingly schools is to help students learn academic material through improvement of their gross motor skills. As a quick example, I may help students strengthen their reading skills by playing specifically prescribed ball games to help their eyes learn to scan from far left to right. Some students need to be taught how to play with their peers, and use manipulatives such as a playground ball, scooter, or trampoline, in order to learn reciprocal play skills, and how to move their bodies using these tools. Many students I work with have extensive educational programming which may include alternative communication, assigned support staff, and equipment.

At this time, KMS does not have a classroom for me to provide these necessary services. Working in the hallways can be disruptive to classrooms, and highly distractive to the students I am supporting while classes and individuals pass by. The lack of a confined and confidential work space significantly limits the materials I can use to provide essential training to both students and staff. I do not have adequate storage for the working materials essential to properly implement some activities. Many students require designated work spaces to successfully concentrate, and to students with limited understanding, being in the hallway typically represents that a transition from 1 location to another is occurring. Unfortunately, many times the noise from hallway echoes, classrooms passing, doors opening and closing, are enough to cause significant anxiety for students, or a tendency to wander rather than focus on working. Many of my students cannot understand the concept of working in the hallway.

My service is a recognized and essential component to students' academic programming through 504 and individualized educational plans, but I do not have a work space or storage location for my working materials. The building upgrades will afford students a confidential, safe and quiet workspace to concentrate on their essential programming and make gains towards goal achievement. Our students not only deserve this, they are entitled to it.

Sincerely,

*Tiffany O'Leary, MSPT
Physical Therapist
Killingly Public Schools
toleary@killinglyschools.org*

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Mary Calorio

From: Holly Heath <hheath@killinglyschools.org>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 12:25 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: KMS Renovation

To whom this may concern,

I am a 4th grade teacher at KMS and am in favor of this renovation project. I was delighted to hear that this could happen sooner rather than later! I have been working in Killingly for 4 years, and working in some of the conditions has been anything but easy. Our building needs help, and it's not about cosmetics, it's for our safety and health. Thank you for taking this matter seriously, and I look forward to the new and improved KMS!

Sincerely,

Holly Heath

Mary Calorio

From: Lorie Chartier <lchartier@killinglyschools.org>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 12:58 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Renovation project at KMS

To whom it may concern,

I am a paraprofessional at KMS. This is my first year working for the Killingly School District. I absolutely love working for KMS, but I do believe that the building definitely needs a makeover. Sometimes it is difficult to work in the classrooms without the technology of other schools. Also, the paint is peeling from many years of use. It would be a great benefit for Killingly to have an up-to-date memorial school as the rest of the schools in the district are. Thank you for our time.

Sincerely,

Lorie Chartier
Paraprofessional KMS

Mary Calorio

From: Monique Revellese <mrevellese@killinglyschools.org>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 1:39 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Killingly Memorial School Renovation Project (72% reimbursed by grant)

Good Afternoon All.

I am writing you all today, because I want to let you know that I completely support this renovation project and to tell you the reasons why.

I have been a citizen, a registered voter & a taxpayer in Killingly now for over 17 years. I am currently in my 3rd year of employment at Killingly Memorial School as well. So, I can say from firsthand experience, that this project needs to be done now. Our beloved school is in dire need of updating and repairs. Now that we are being reimbursed by the state at 72% and eligible for a grant, the time to do that is now.

Whether you own an automobile or a home, you need to continuously maintain it and repair or replace what no longer works. Our Killingly Memorial School is no different. Our school needs a renovation now and we are being offered an incredible opportunity to do so. If we don't act now, we will pay dearly in doing so later. We all need to use foresight in regards to this project, not hindsight.

In closing, our children and the staff at KMS need to be in a safe environment in which to work, teach & learn. This proposal & plan will give us just that. Thank you.

Monique Revellese
Killingly Memorial School
Special Education Paraprofessional

14 Town Farm Rd

Mary Calorio

From: Lisa Siegmund <lsiegmund@killinglyschools.org>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 1:50 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Renovation of Killingly Memorial School

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Lisa Siegmund and I am a third-grade teacher at Killingly Memorial School. In fact, I have been teaching in Killingly for 26 years and most of that time I've been in K.M.S. Teachers are, by in large, an optimistic and flexible group with elementary school teachers being extremely self-reliant. We have made Killingly Memorial School a well-functioning and comfortable school for many years by reusing and repurposing rooms, equipment, and resources.

When I learned about the possibility of completely renovating our school, I smiled and took a deep breath. Imagining K.M.S. as an elementary school that rivals elementary schools in more prosperous towns has always been a dream. Now the idea that we may experience improvements such as a new heating and cooling system, more classroom space, rooms appropriate for art and music, a new library area, a new electrical system, and a new cafeteria could become a reality!

I want to urge the decision-makers to move ahead with the process and apply for the funding from the state. It would be wonderful for me to be able to work in a newly-imagined K.M.S., but it would surely be most important for the many younger teachers already employed here and for the people of Killingly to feel the sense of pride in this accomplishment!

Sincerely,
Lisa Siegmund
Grade 3 Teacher
Killingly Memorial School

Mary Calorio

From: Nancy Juhola <njuhola@killinglyschools.org>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 3:19 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: KMS building project

To the Killingly Town Council,

The KMS building project is a wonderful opportunity to have the school I work at be upgraded. It is exciting to hear that the state deems, Killingly Memorial School as an important part of the educational system. It will benefit students, teachers, support staff, food service and custodians by providing a safe and healthy learning environment for years to come. These upgrades have been needed for a long time. The town council should feel good about taking this opportunity to invest in the infrastructure of the town, that will affect thousands of children throughout its lifetime.

Thank you,
Nancy Juhola
Grade 2 teacher, KMS

Mary Calorio

From: Tina Chahanovich <tchahanovich@killinglyschools.org>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 4:06 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: KMS Renovation/Addition Project

Dear Killingly Town Council Members,

I am writing in support of the KMS Renovation/Addition Project. Not only have I been the KMS Principal for the past 5 years, but I have also been a Killingly resident since 1994. Both of my boys attended Killingly Public Schools. However, they never attended KMS.

Prior to being hired in Killingly, I had never been throughout the KMS building. I was amazed at the difference in the physical quality of the school building compared to the other buildings that my own children had attended. Killingly Memorial School is full of asbestos, poor ventilation, and has a heating system that is uncontrollable. Many days I have to open my office window on a 35-degree day because the building is so hot. We still lack full ADA compliance at KMS. Because of the lack of space, I have had teachers working with students in closets, the stage area, and hallways prior to the pandemic.

I truly believe that all children of Killingly deserve a school they can feel safe and comfortable in while learning. I love being the principal of KMS, and have an outstanding staff. Please approve the KMS Renovation/Addition Project, so we can have a school building that we can all be proud of. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Tina Chahanovich, Principal
Killingly Memorial School
339 Main St.
Killingly, CT
860-779-6680
tchahanovich@killinglyschools.org*

Killingly Public Schools, Great Things Happen Here!



4 Quinns Hill Rd

Mary Calorio

From: Terry Aleman <tandfaleman@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 4:42 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Fwd: New school

Begin forwarded message:

From: Terry Aleman <tandfaleman@sbcglobal.net>
Date: December 11, 2020 at 4:32:22 PM EST
To: publiccomment@kllilngly.ct.gov
Cc: ngrandelski@sbcglobal.net, island5717@gmail.com
Subject: New school

While it does seem to make sense to go for the total project I do have the following questions :
The new total cost is +- \$31.5 million. Couldn't we build a totally new designed school for that? Instead of upgrading the existing one?
For that money or less why couldn't the old high school be converted to the new middle school?
Where will all the kids go during the BIG Change? Won't noise etc disturb teaching?
My sense is that decisions are being rushed without any real input from professionals , staff, etc. That we need to study the alternatives carefully before rushing ahead. I do understand the State pressure.
I hope my input is helpful! Frank Aleman

30 Saw Mill Rd

Mary Calorio

From: Laura Powers <lpowers@killinglyschools.org>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 6:17 PM
To: Public Comment
Cc: Tina Chahanovich
Subject: KMS

To Killingly Town Council

My name is Laura Powers and I have been the Art teacher at KMS for the last 21 years. My classroom is in the old portable unit. I am thrilled at the possibility of no longer holding my art classes in that room. All the students in the school use the art room weekly. The art room has no insulation in the floor and three outside walls. The windows and doors leak so badly that when the wind is strong the doors slam shut. The children often come to class with their coats on. It is always very cold. The bathroom floors in our wing are rotted and all but one bathroom have been permanently closed. The roof leaks requiring buckets in the halls. Recently, we had to close the foyer due to a bees nest in the ceiling. The hall was full of bees for several days. I have done my best to create a warm inviting room for my students, but the space is small and storage is limited. Please approve the new wing along with the updates to the whole building for this year so that work can be done as soon as possible. Thank you for considering this.

Sent from my iPhone

Mary Calorio

From: Jonathan Blake <jblake4867@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 9:46 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Killingly Memorial School Project

Dear Killingly Town Council Members,

Having reviewed the proposed increased appropriation for the Killingly Memorial School (KMS) Project, we are in favor of the full \$34,000,000 project moving forward. Looking at the totality of the needed repairs and modifications the increased scope is needed. This project has been a long time coming and now is the time to act. Any delay will cost Killingly Residences more as the cost of construction will increase while these areas of the school will continue to deteriorate or be lacking. With the increased reimbursement (60% to 72%) from the State for the additional repairs, We believe the choice is clear. We ask the Killingly Town Council to approve the full appropriation, given the increased benefit of the project and the higher reimbursement rate.

Jonathan & Sarah Blake
20 Charlotte Street
Danielson, CT 06239

Mary Calorio

From: Cherie Gagne <sunbnny2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 11:00 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Town Council: KMS Project

To the Killingly Town Council Members,

I would like to again express my support for the KMS project. Those of you who have toured the KMS building know the great disrepair that the current modules are in. I would also like to add that every year when the weather gets very warm, parts of KMS frequently lose power because the electrical system cannot even sustain every room having a fan. Waiting on this project would not bring a better reimbursement. Even if the project only replaced the amount of space that would be lost in demolishing the modules, it would exceed the state requirements for maximum reimbursement, and this plan would lack the much needed square footage to ensure adequate classrooms and classroom size.

Thank you all for your time and service to our great town.

Cherie Riabtsev (pronounced: Ree-ab-ts-ev)
21 Pequot Circle
Danielson, CT

Sent from my iPhone