

CAPE ELIZABETH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Cape Elizabeth, Maine

To: *Spurwink School Re-Use Committee*

James Garvin, Chair

Jim Walsh

Caitlin Jordan

Heather Altenburg

John Voltz

Greg Marles, Facilities Director

cc: Cathy Stankard, Director of Teaching and Learning

John Holdridge, Volunteer and Extended Learning Opportunities Coordinator

From: Howard P. Colter, Superintendent 

Date: September 30, 2016

Re: School Department's C.A.P.E. HUB proposal

The School Department no longer believes it to be in the best interest of either the town or the school for us to be granted sole use or access to the former Spurwink School building. We are now thinking that it is possible and desirable for this historical building to have multiple tenants. We can see the possibility of two or more groups using the facility in common, and believe the various groups can support one another and serve the community better together than alone.

At the heart of the C.A.P.E HUB proposal is the concept of establishing a collaborative space for the school community to interact with the larger community. The proposal process has allowed us to reflect on our own vision and led to new ideas and conversations with various parties with our conclusion being that the Spurwink School can and should be a public space that is shared by design. Specifically, we now envision the Spurwink School as a Lifelong Learning Commons that houses a mixed use space facilitated by the School Department, a living history museum facilitated by the Historical Society, and a community maker-space facilitated by the Thomas Memorial Library.

Cape Elizabeth is at a crossroads with regards to management, town center development, and changing demographics. Regardless of the ultimate use of the Spurwink School, we encourage the town and the Re-Use Committee to alter the future use selection process from one of competing proposals to one of collaborative brainstorming. The Spurwink School has the potential to stand beside the Thomas Memorial Library as one of the crown jewels of our evolving town center. We look forward to joining a study group that is charged with exploring multiple options for collaboration by design and with identifying model programs to emulate as we move forward and think to the future.

We thank you for all your time, and for considering our suggestion for a slightly modified way of thinking about the future use of Spurwink School.