



Colleen Burns Jermain, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

109 Old Fort Road • Newport, Rhode Island 02840-3898
Telephone 401.847.2100 Ext. 5376 • Fax 401.849.0170 • colleenjermain@npsri.net

May 17, 2019

Mr. Robert Sylvia and Members of the Middletown Town Council
Town of Middletown
350 East Main Road
Middletown, RI 02840

Dear President Sylvia and Honorable Town Council Members,

Newport Public Schools is undergoing the RIDE submission process for school construction. As part of this process, I am reaching out to you to see if there is any desire for discussion on a unified school district to provide the best educational opportunities for all our children while being responsible to our communities relating to rising costs and possible tax implications for our residents now and in the future. After watching the most recent joint workshop with the Middletown Town Council and School Committee I did sense the urgency you as a Town Council would like to see changes around test scores and academic success, as well as being mindful on how dollars are spent and allocated. This is the same concern here in Newport. So I wonder if as leaders we owe it to the students and families of today and tomorrow from both communities that we serve to do our due diligence and consider "the what if". The short time we sit and listen to each other may surprise us on what we may learn, especially if it means we can maintain the same structures and students we now service, PK-8, and allow our communities together to build a state of the art high school that combines the best of what we do and more while receiving an 80% reimbursement rate on all costs on this project, as well as any other projects Middletown may have already bonded for the future.

Newport and Middletown have had a long relationship of collaboration ranging from our partnerships in hockey, cooperative tennis teams, high school dances, art and the most recent amazing joint theater production of Godspell. Our youth play Pop Warner and soccer together as one team at a very early age and as school districts we support each other in many areas. The students and children are fine. I believe it is now our time as adults to see if there is a possibility of creating a great system together that is even better than we could possibly imagine for our children.

I am requesting fifteen minutes of your time on the next agenda to possibly save the Town of Middletown millions in the future and share a conceptual possibility both communities may

Providing Students Opportunities and Access to the World Through Quality Education

want to explore. The offer of reimbursement and funding is time sensitive and limited. Before Newport moves forward on its own, I would like a chance to have a conversation and share the financial and educational possibilities with you-our neighbors and partners in Middletown.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'CBJ', followed by a horizontal line.

Colleen Burns Jermain, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

CBJ/cn

cc: Shawn Brown, Town Administrator
Mr. Raymond Gomes, Chair, Newport School Committee
Newport School Committee Members
Honorable Mayor Jamie Bova and Newport City Council
Joseph Nicholson, City Manager of Newport