



CITY OF NEWBURYPORT
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
SEAN R. REARDON, MAYOR

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November 1, 2023

Garry James, Chairman
Whittier Regional Vocational Technical School Committee
115 Amesbury Line Road
Haverhill, MA 01830

Maureen Lynch Superintendent
Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School
115 Amesbury Line Road
Haverhill, MA 01830

RE: WHITTIER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT - PROJECT VOTE

Dear Chairman James and Superintendent Lynch:

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Newburyport are writing regarding the planned reconstruction of the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical School. We are concerned about the high costs of this project, which are currently estimated at over \$400 million, and will require debt service payments by all of the Whittier District member communities. Municipalities have been informed of the proposed annual debt service payments, and Newburyport is scheduled to pay an estimated \$1,981,308 a year. The City does not have the room in its operating budget to pay this amount, and has no authorization to bond for these funds. The lack of a funding plan for this large capital project is concerning.

The City recognizes the importance of vocational education and of Whittier in particular, and is willing to work with the Committee through its representatives to find alternatives to this project and the proposed funding mechanism. We hope to continue to engage the Committee to find an alternative.

Sincerely,

Heather L. Shand
City Council President

Sean R. Reardon
Mayor

CC: Whittier School District Member Communities Municipal Leaders
Massachusetts School Building Authority
Senator Bruce Tarr
Representative Dawne Shand