

## Dori Alvich

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**From:** Ad Hoc  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2019 9:32 AM  
**To:** Dori Alvich  
**Subject:** Fw: [External Email]My recommendations

①

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2019 1:34 PM  
**To:** Ad Hoc  
**Subject:** [External Email]My recommendations

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Good Afternoon,

I am very fortunate to have all three of my children attend the Monroe school systems. My youngest graduates this June.

Unfortunately, this is probably too late for Monroe – but I am in the plumbing industry and have been working with builders and developers for 25 years. I'm not sure if Monroe does this, but most EVERY town in NJ and other states make demands on builders developing in their towns. Several ask builders and developers to contribute to their schools, roads and parks as part of the approval to build in the town.

If we are not doing so, perhaps we can start doing this. The residents do not want to pay for things like schools, roads and parks, especially since they pay taxes. However the builders and developers make very good money on the homes they build in town. It works in other towns in the state, why not Monroe?

I know you cannot prevent people from selling property to developers but perhaps limit the amount of homes built. The area of town near Applegarth is overdeveloped now, and with the opening of the townhomes off of Mount Mills road the same will happen on this side. Hopefully these national developers will contribute to our schools and infrastructures.

Perhaps the school funding cut in Old Bridge can we reassigned to Monroe?

Best of Luck – Keep Monroe great!

Sincerely,

## Dori Alvich

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**From:** Ad Hoc  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2019 9:33 AM  
**To:** Dori Alvich  
**Subject:** Fw: Student Enrollment

②

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2019 2:13 PM  
**To:** Ad Hoc  
**Subject:** Student Enrollment

If new buildings are not approved, I suggest adding additional floors to MTMS and MTHS. This may be faster, cheaper and require fewer permits/contractors. Consider science wing classroom needs of plumbing, electric, fume hood, etc...

**Dori Alvich**

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**From:** Ad Hoc  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2019 9:33 AM  
**To:** Dori Alvich  
**Subject:** Fw: [External Email]Suggestion

3

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2019 2:53 PM  
**To:** Ad Hoc  
**Subject:** [External Email]Suggestion

**Red colorCAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Open a gofundme. This way people can start to contribute how much they want to, also, it can be open to family members outside of Monroe that may want to contribute. You could also do a buy a brick program, sponsor get your name on a plaque. It may offset some of the cost.

Be more up front where the money is going, show development costs etc.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE Smartphone

## Dori Alvich

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**From:** Ad Hoc  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2019 9:33 AM  
**To:** Dori Alvich  
**Subject:** Fw: [External Email]Overcrowding situation

4

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2019 4:17 PM  
**To:** Ad Hoc  
**Subject:** [External Email]Overcrowding situation

**Red colorCAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

An idea I had to deal with the school overcrowding is to split the high school into two separate schools and "junior" high school for 9th and 10th graders and a "senior" high school school for 11th and 12th graders. That way we do not have to expand the existing high school but instead build a new one. I also do think we need to build another middle school along with this new smaller foot print high school. That way as time goes on the crowding is limited and allows us as a town to continue to grow because it doesn't seem like that is going to stop so I fee it's better to think long term.

Thanks

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**Dori Alvich**

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**From:** Ad Hoc  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2019 9:33 AM  
**To:** Dori Alvich  
**Subject:** Fw: [External Email]School problem

5

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2019 10:55 PM  
**To:** Ad Hoc; Ad Hoc  
**Subject:** [External Email]School problem

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Monroe Township IT Department

My name is [REDACTED] my children have been out of the school system for quite some time. I was wondering why Monroe can't get access to the state home for boys? I am under the impression that it is closing. I don't know what would be required for the township to acquire that tract of land as I believe it's state owned, but it seems like that location would be a perfect solution to the problem of over crowded schools in our town. Just a suggestion. [REDACTED], forty year resident of monroe

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

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
May 2, 2019

**Board of Education**  
Monroe Twp. NJ 08831

Ladies And Gentlemen,

I see that you are seeking solutions to the problem of trying to pay for a new Middle School. Obviously you have noticed that the voting public has a resistance to increasing their taxes. Maybe they have discovered that the construction of new housing leads to the need for increased infrastructure (including schools). I suggest that new construction should pay an impact fee sufficient to pay for their impact on the community. But, it's too late for the middle school.

If the township government were to show that it was trying to lower taxes by efficient use of the current funds rather than continuously looking for state and federal grants etc. the voting public might feel differently. How about merging services with adjoining communities?? I agree that I cannot necessarily offer truly practical solutions since I don't have enough familiarity with township government but this may offer a direction.

Yours truly,   
 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7

Dori Alvich

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**From:** Ad Hoc  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2019 9:14 AM  
**To:** Dori Alvich  
**Subject:** Fw: [External Email]Re: Request for proposals

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 21, 2019 11:59 PM  
**To:** Ad Hoc  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [External Email]Re: Request for proposals

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Monroe Township IT Department

Ad Hoc Committee

I came across the below company in my management class at Purdue University. I felt they could possibly be an innovative, cost efficient as well as green solution to the overcrowding situation in the schools. I have forwarded the committee information so that they can respond to you with a proposal or receive any additional information from the committee before suggesting a proposal. I am retired from the NYPD and have been living in Monroe since 2005 and currently have a child in high school. Although I may not be here for any new schools as my son may be leaving the state to pursue a college education, I am vested as I care for this community and would like to maintain its success as that is the reason many people relocate to Monroe. What attracted us to Monroe was the beautiful and peaceful community as well as the good schools and we would love for the community to maintain this attraction for many years to come.

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Thank You

## Dori Alvich

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**From:** Ad Hoc  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 13, 2019 8:25 AM  
**To:** Dori Alvich  
**Subject:** Fw: [External Email]PROPOSALS



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 2, 2019 11:24 AM  
**To:** Ad Hoc  
**Subject:** [External Email]PROPOSALS

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### Monroe Township IT Department

1. Jamesburg High School which is now an office building -- can it be used again as a school without too much expense?
2. Jamesburg Grammar Schools -- do they have room for us to send some of our students to their schools with MTBOE teachers, curriculum, administrators, etc.?
3. Manalapan School District -- unused school available to rent to us?
4. Millstone School District -- unused school available to rent to us?
5. Knock down Applegarth and build a new school for more students
6. Addition to Oak Tree Elementary School (can this building have multiple floors built on top of current footprint?)
7. Change Monroe Senior Center into a school
8. Large office building at corner of Prospect Plains & South River Road. Can it be converted into a school? It may be in East Windsor.

**Dori Alvich**

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**From:** Ad Hoc  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 13, 2019 8:24 AM  
**To:** Dori Alvich  
**Subject:** Fw: [External Email]School plan



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 3, 2019 12:02 PM  
**To:** Ad Hoc  
**Subject:** [External Email]School plan

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Monroe Township IT Department

My idea to help with overcrowding is to build a 5-6 school. This would alleviate overcrowding in both elementary and middle school levels. Also, the school would not have to be as high tech with state of the art facilities as the current middle school because all children would still get to attend the current middle school for grades 7 and 8.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

## Dori Alvich

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**From:** Ad Hoc  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 13, 2019 8:20 AM  
**To:** Dori Alvich  
**Subject:** Fw: [External Email]School expansion proposal



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 12, 2019 4:56 PM  
**To:** Ad Hoc  
**Subject:** [External Email]School expansion proposal

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Monroe Township IT Department

Ad Hoc Committee

I came across the below company in my management class at Purdue University. I felt they could possibly be an innovative, cost efficient as well as green solution to the overcrowding situation in the schools. I have forwarded the committee information so that they can respond to you with a proposal or receive any additional information from the committee before suggesting a proposal. I am retired from the NYPD and have been living in Monroe since 2005 and currently have a child in high school. Although I may not be here for any new schools as my son may be leaving the state to pursue a college education, I am vested as I care for this community and would like to maintain its success as that is the reason many people relocate to Monroe. What attracted us to Monroe was the beautiful and peaceful community as well as the good schools and we would love for the community to maintain this attraction for many years to come.

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[projectfrog.com](http://projectfrog.com)

Thank You

**Dori Alvich**

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**From:** Ad Hoc  
**Sent:** Monday, June 17, 2019 10:18 AM  
**To:** Dori Alvich  
**Subject:** Fw: [External Email]Re: FALCON EXPRESS/Ad Hoc Committee-REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: Planning School Facilities to Accommodate Increased Student Enrollment

11

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Friday, June 14, 2019 10:53 PM  
**To:** Ad Hoc  
**Subject:** [External Email]Re: FALCON EXPRESS/Ad Hoc Committee-REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: Planning School Facilities to Accommodate Increased Student Enrollment

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the school district. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Monroe Township IT Department

Dear committee member,

The new school is really required. Township should maintain the child vs school ratio as well before approving any residential construction in town. Since it is too late now instead of passing referendum, township shall start building the school.

Regards

On Fri, May 17, 2019, 1:17 PM Monroe Township Board of Education <[deanna.dale@monroe.k12.nj.us](mailto:deanna.dale@monroe.k12.nj.us)> wrote:



Having been in the district 10 years and watching the changes that have occurred as well as hearing feedback from the last two referendum attempts this would be my proposal as to how to proceed. I am sure this is not the only version of this particular idea out there.

I would suggest looking into creating a 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade school. This could potentially do several things:

- Eliminate the need of a new middle school and the need to exactly duplicate services and opportunities in it thus cutting costs that way (coaches, clubs, TAG, etc...)
- Pull the 5<sup>th</sup> grade from the three elementary schools to allow for a realignment of all elementary schools to K-4 buildings (space being unknown as well as facility tweaks to accommodate the younger students.)
- The students would still only move through three buildings from K-8 as they do now.
- It would allow for a heterogeneously populated school to avoid parents feeling like there would be two middle schools for different populations as was heard in feedback from the last referendum.
- We would need to include the addition to the HS in order to have the referendum benefit all students and needs.

Pro's to the idea:

- Students would not have to go to an additional school prior to HS.
- It would allow the younger students the stability of being in the same elementary school for 5 years K-4.
- Eliminate the costs of duplicated services of a new middle school.
- Reduce the population of the middle school to @1200 students where each grade would populate a floor eliminating the need for trailers.
- An elementary, middle and high school referendum would benefit all and parents should endorse the idea.
- It would be a one-time referendum with no fear of another in a few years.
- Little need for hiring new staff as the current 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers would move into the facility.
- Keeps the purity of a true grade 9-12 HS model without the issues of moving the 9<sup>th</sup> grade out.
- A hybrid of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade scheduling model can be implemented in order for them to better assimilate into the middle school.

Con's or unknowns:

- Elementary schools would need to be assessed for space to ensure they could handle K-4 population. Some redistricting may be needed.
- 5/6 School bus schedule, how would it fit in the bussing schedule for the day.
- I am sure there are other concerns or issues but this is only an outline to begin a discussion if desired about the idea.

**Dori Alvich**

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**From:** Ad Hoc  
**Sent:** Monday, June 17, 2019 10:19 AM  
**To:** Dori Alvich  
**Subject:** Fw: [External Email]Suggestions on next referendum

13

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 13, 2019 11:02 AM  
**To:** Ad Hoc  
**Cc:** Steven Riback  
**Subject:** [External Email]Suggestions on next referendum

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the school district. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Monroe Township IT Department

Here are a few thoughts on the next referendum for your consideration:

1. Instead of a second middle school build an Intermediate School for Grades 5 and 6. This will relieve pressure to build another elementary school in the future and alleviate the enrollment at the current middle school. Look at the projected grade enrollments; with 500-600 students per grade, that would equate to an Intermediate School with approximately 1000-1200 students; likewise, for the middle school. Also, an Intermediate School wouldn't be as expensive to build as a second middle school (less expensive science rooms, for example.)
2. Whether the plan is to build another middle school or an intermediate school, there is no need for "parity" in terms of facility. Yes, the curriculum and the classrooms to provide that curriculum needs to provide for parity. However, with two very nice

and large auditoriums in the district, why does another building need its own auditorium? Concerts and plays can be done in one of the two auditoriums; practices can be done in music rooms, cafeterias or gym (for after school play practice). The community needs to see that the Board is trying to keep costs down.

3. Use the land immediately north of the current middle school to build a grade 6 (or 8) facility with its own gym, cafeteria, and media center. These spaces would be smaller than that which is needed in a second middle school since the building would house a much smaller number of students (500-650-700, depending on demographic projections). The playing fields (baseball and or the "cage") could be located elsewhere. Such a building could be managed with a smaller staff: a vice principal could be the building administrator, less personnel needed for counseling, nursing, secretarial than a second middle school would require.

4. Any addition to the high school needs to be adequate but does not have to be "state-of-the-art." I have heard residents comment on why the classrooms for food needed to be "state of the art."

5. Architects will suggest designs which are more expensive than necessary. Demand that they keep in the mind the need to develop a design which will provide the necessary instructional spaces but without "bells and whistles." The community will appreciate a "no frills" design...that goes for any future buildings: intermediate school, middle school or additions to the high school.

## Dori Alvich

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**From:** Ad Hoc  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2019 11:31 AM  
**To:** Dori Alvich  
**Subject:** Fw: [External Email]Proposal for Student Growth

14

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 17, 2019 5:46 PM  
**To:** Ad Hoc  
**Cc:** Robert Goodall; Ken Chiarella; Peter Tufano; Kathy Kolupanowich  
**Subject:** [External Email]Proposal for Student Growth

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the school district. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Monroe Township IT Department

Dear Ad Hoc Committee -

My name is [REDACTED] and I am requesting that my name NOT be redacted from this proposal. I have been involved in the Monroe School District as a parent group leader/member for the last 10 years, starting as the Founding President of the Oak Tree PTA, the Middle School Parent Staff Association and a member of the HS PTO. I have seen the overcrowding take over our schools. At this point in time, there is no doubt in my mind that Monroe needs to build at least 1 new school and add an addition onto the High School.

I am asking this committee to go back and do its research on the recommendations of the Student Growth Advisory Committee that met for over a year under Dr Kozak and came up with 3 options to address the growth in the amount of students into the district.

I believe that the idea of considering an intermediate school is a very valid one for our district. If you research and look at other surrounding districts, you will see that they have gone away from 2 Middle Schools. It has been talked about for years by many in our school district of the idea to break down the grades in the schools. A grade 5 and grade 6 school would immediately open space at the existing elementary schools and the Middle School. The Middle School that currently exists could hold Grades 7 and 8 with room to grow. If you take Grade 5 out of Applegarth School, you can then have Grades 3 and 4 in the Applegarth School, which then opens a lot of space in Oak Tree. The High School would still need the addition of the 9th grade wing.

Monroe is a very large community. By building a second Middle School on the south side of town, you keep the students separated until High School and that divides the community. 1 Middle School and 1 High School foster the 1 community model.

I hope that you will consider this proposal and think about all the ramifications that 2 Middle School will have on our community.

Sincerely,

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## Dori Alvich

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**From:** Kathy Kolupanowich  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 16, 2019 11:35 AM  
**To:** Dori Alvich  
**Cc:** Louis Masters  
**Subject:** Fw: [External Email]Enrollment Proposal



Hi Dori:

I am forwarding the email below to you and Lou for the Ad Hoc Committee's review.

Kathy

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 15, 2019 10:03 PM  
**To:** Ad Hoc  
**Cc:** Ken Chiarella; Patty Lang; Kathy Kolupanowich  
**Subject:** [External Email]Enrollment Proposal

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Monroe Township IT Department

Have we explored renting space from Millstone? Their student enrollment has been decreasing, and I believe they have discussed closing one of their elementary schools. For those of us on the south side of Monroe, a commute to one of the Millstone elementary schools would be the same distance as to Oak Tree/Applegarth.

**Dori Alvich**

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**From:** Ad Hoc  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019 8:31 PM  
**To:** Dori Alvich  
**Subject:** Fw: [External Email]Request for Proposals - Planning school facilities in Monroe

16

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2019 10:39 PM  
**To:** Ad Hoc  
**Subject:** [External Email]Request for Proposals - Planning school facilities in Monroe

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the school district. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Monroe Township IT Department

Hello,

I am a parent of 2 kids who go to Oak Tree Elementary school and Monroe Township Middle School. We moved to Monroe 13 plus years ago, there is a huge difference with respect to over crowding, housing, increased kids in schools etc

I have heard a lot of budget cuts with respect to courtesy bussing, after school activities, etc.

We budget everything for our family based on the income we generate.  
A school is no different than a family. We have two options here:-

1. We work within the budget that we have and cut down on basic necessities.
2. We try to increase our income to fulfill the needs.

I have heard various things regarding the first option.

Lets try to explore the second option. What is it that we can do to increase our income and make Monroe, one of the top rated school districts?

- Every parent wants to keep the kids busy and encourage them to play sports, take a dance class, musical instrument, work on a science project, robotics, etc.
- Parents are driving the kids to after school activites, to various facilities which are far from where they live and spend most of the evenings.
- These places which offer after school activities are definitely profitable, if not - most of them would have been closed by now.
- Can we offer these programs in house at the school, after school and make them paid programs?

- If its profitable to these places, it should definitely be profitable to the school. We can generate more revenue and able to fulfill the needs of the school children.
- I can share all the ideas, if someone can reach out to me via email and provide their phone number, I can certainly call them and take it from there.
- I can also provide some volunteer help to ensure that this program is successful and runs smoothly.
- I might be missing some key points here, but collectively we can all acheive it and generate more income to the school.
- Lets start thinking outside the box, lets bring in fresh ideas and make this a beautiful and desired town.

Appreciate if someone can reach out to me.

Thank you

**Dori Alvich**

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**From:** Ad Hoc  
**Sent:** Monday, June 24, 2019 3:42 PM  
**To:** Dori Alvich  
**Subject:** Fw: [External Email]Proposals-request re facilities planning  
**Attachments:** facilities proposal june 2019.docx

17

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 23, 2019 12:25 PM  
**To:** Ad Hoc  
**Subject:** [External Email]Proposals-request re facilities planning

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the school district. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Monroe Township IT Department

To: Ad Hoc Committee, Monroe Township Board of Education

In response to your Request for Proposals, the attached Word document outlines my suggestions for facilities planning. Thank you.

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Monroe Township

June 21, 2019

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: JULY 31, 2019 EMAIL PROPOSALS TO: ADHOC@MONROE.K12.NJ.US  
MAIL/HAND DELIVER TO: Monroe Township BOE 423 Buckelew Ave. Monroe Township, NJ 08831

Monroe Township Board of Education  
Ad Hoc Committee

To whom it may concern:

Herein, I offer suggestions for facilities planning in response to your proposals request. As background, I am a 15-year resident of Monroe Township, graduated college in 1981, hold a PhD in Chemical Engineering, and well recognize the importance of a quality K-12 education. I voted affirmatively for the 2018 and 2019 referendum, though found the school designs excessive.

Two sizeable township constituencies are referendum obstacles:

- Parents with a sense of entitlement and unrealistic expectations. The faulty logic of this cohort is on display at BoE meetings where parents assert incremental tax revenue from housing growth can fully fund new facilities; yet the district's cost to educate a homeowner's family often far exceeds the portion of the homeowner's tax bill allocated to the school district.
- Retirees (a) whose savings cannot keep pace with spending against the backdrop of meager interest rates, and (b) who are skeptical of the value of high-cost educational tools for they, in contrast, achieved success following a public-school education rooted in minimalist technology defined by blackboards and chalk, slide rules, and hand-held calculators.

Dissonance expressed by the first group (i.e., entitled parents) with new-school referendum will remain unresolved unless an external funding source (e.g., State Government) comes to the rescue or the district's cost basis falls. Neither of these outcomes is realistic. Hence, altering the opinion of a critical mass within the second group (the retiree cohort) is a more dependable path to success. Towards that end:

- A. Build an Intermediate School (grades 6 and 7) on the Applegarth Golf Range property
- B. Realign the Middle School as a Junior High School for grades 8 and 9
- C. Deploy the High School for grades 10 – 12.

This proposal has two advantages over the recent referendum:

- the proposal obviates the high-school addition
- the costly proposition of Middle School parity falls away (as there are no longer two schools concurrently serving grade 6 – 8 populations)

I recognize a district-wide Intermediate School for grades 6 and 7 must be sized larger than the recently proposed Middle School, but assume this is achievable as the footprint of an Intermediate School's athletic fields will be smaller (again, no need to achieve parity with the existing Middle School facilities since the two school populations do not overlap). Further, and key to the strategy of pushing the

referendum across the finish line by speaking to Retiree concerns, streamline the design with old-school technology (blackboards vs electronic whiteboards) as appropriate, and avoid over-the-top state-of-the-art science laboratories and video production facilities. Finally, sweeten the deal for the district's ambitiously-minded parents by carving-out an accelerated section or two (25 – 50 students) that consolidates grades 6 and 7, allowing the student to complete Intermediate School in one year. The combined grade 6/7 will also serve to marginally decrease the school's total enrollment.

A referendum's chances of passage will be further improved were the Board of Education and District Administration to demonstrate willingness for curricular/extra-curricular belt-tightening. Suggestions ranging from small to big ticket items are outlined in Attachment A (below).

Thank you.



Monroe Township

#### **Attachment A: Belt-Tightening Proposals**

##### **A.1 Drop Boy's Ice Hockey**

Between rink rental fees and insurance premiums, the per-student cost of Boy's Ice Hockey is an outlier relative to the cost of the typical curricular or extra-curricular activity.

##### **A.2 Stop Coddling**

It is no wonder mental-health services at many colleges are overwhelmed as youngsters, these days, are continually shielded from adversity and, in turn, not given the chance to develop coping mechanisms. Here are three ways in which Monroe Schools support this paradigm:

- Paraphrasing Mr. Goodall's response to a parent's proposal of the Intermediate-School concept: *it's too much to ask our children to ride a bus for 20 minutes.* I, for one, would not relish the idea of a 20-minute ride to and from school, especially when some on the bus exhibit boorish behavior. Nonetheless, dealing with this type of "hardship" does have the potential to build character, grit, and discipline.

In a similar vein (reflecting concerns for students' psychological well-being), Mr. Goodall noted the downside of students' frequently changing schools. Flipped 180 degrees towards the positive, one might argue change strengthens adaptability.

- The team model at the Middle School, which segments grades into "manageable" chunks of a more sociable size.  
I suppose one feels less isolated and more comfortable within smaller groups, but this gentle safe-bubble environment is not reflective of the real world. Moreover, segmentation necessitates more supervision and duplication of effort (such as multiple graduation ceremonies).

- The district's alphabet-soup of acronym –laden preparedness programs (e.g., AVID)

Consider dropping some of these protective shields to promote a child's awareness, development, perseverance, and self confidence.

### A.3 Customization Costs

A unified approach is always more cost effective than a customized one. Accordingly, abandon the Academy model at the high school. *High school should be a time of exploration, not specialization.* For a student entertaining the notion of an engineering career, pre-engineering classes (like engineering design or robotics) in high school are regressive and short-sighted. The student would be better positioned by expanding their frontiers with additional classes in literature, the arts, language, or social sciences.

### A.4 Leverage the Community's Knowledge Base

To build on the comments in A.3, above ... extra-curricular activities are an effective conduit for reinforcing a student's interests, and could serve as a less-structured substitute for Academy programs. Those with interests in engineering careers, for instance, might enjoy an after-school Tinkerers Club or Robotics Club. Without much effort, I am certain the district could find individuals within the adult-retirement communities thrilled to lead these club efforts either on a volunteer basis or for a minimal stipend. Consider, for example, locating a retired electrical engineer and a retired mechanical engineer to co-lead a multi-week examination of the internals of an electric toothbrush in a Tinkerers-Club setting.

### A.5 Back to Basics

The Board of Education and the District Administration have bemoaned its students' lackluster performance on the PARCC assessments. No wonder ... internet and I-Pad dependencies promote intellectual laziness. Y'all don't understand a concept you read, why not watch a simulation; y'all don't know how to spell a word, just use a spell checker; why go to the library to do research, just google Wikipedia. The upshot ... students are rarely tasked to reason from first principles without some device as a crutch; hence, it is understandable they falter when faced with unstructured questions such as those posed by PARCC.

For students with a learning disability, such as dyslexia, a word processor is a god-send. For the mainstream student, however, it would be to their benefit to avoid word processors until they graduate high school. To claim non-tech-savvy students as ill-prepared for college is specious. Of course, learning to program should be mandatory for all high-school students as a means of developing logic skills; but this is certainly a different, more challenging, and far more useful skill set than gaining facility with a smart phone, tablet, or Microsoft Office (proficiencies that can be acquired in the matter of hours).

Bottom line ... the district is advised to scale-back its I-Pad initiative, and not push the devices into the middle and elementary schools. To test the efficacy of this concept, consider a controlled experiment where a group of 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> graders are taught for a year in an I-Pad-less environment, then analyze how they test relative to their contemporaries who followed the traditional tech-enabled curriculum. In fact, sweeten the deal, by using 25-year old textbooks in the tech-less group. My intuition suggests you

will be surprised with the results; namely, the “old-school” cohort achieves better grasp and retention of fundamental concepts.

I appreciate the downside of this course of action ... in a world of show over substance (e.g., a district’s showing-off its “impressive” list of colleges to which seniors have gained admission as a proxy for measuring programmatic quality), rankings will plummet once a district is perceived as less tech-intensive than its peers. Regardless, pivoting towards the less well-traveled path may be in the students’ best interests.

## Dori Alvich

---

**From:** Cathy Varacallo  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 27, 2019 12:50 PM  
**To:** Dori Alvich; Michael Gorski  
**Subject:** FW: [External Email]REPLY TO YOUR Flyer regarding the MT school referendum  
**Attachments:** Ad Hoc Proposal Flyer.pdf

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This came directly to my email address.

I replied with "Thank you for submitting your proposal. I have forwarded it to the Ad Hoc Committee for consideration. The committee will be reviewing all submissions.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 27, 2019 12:27 PM  
**To:** Cathy Varacallo <Cathy.Varacallo@Monroe.K12.NJ.US>  
**Subject:** [External Email]REPLY TO YOUR Flyer regarding the MT school referendum

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the school district. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Monroe Township IT Department

Dear Ms. Varacallo:

Subject: Input for Planning for request for Planning for more school

After purchase my first home is Monroe Town ship in 1978...

Yes Monroe Twp. more need School's:

My History living Monroe Twp (For you to have a better upstanding of the Monroe Twp. after 40 years living in Monroe twp...Both my children graduate from Monroe Twp system...)

We built everything and I mean everything, all the schools, municipal building, and so on- tons of projects, still taxes were very low because of senior development's...

B- All bond were though our low taxes, know you ask to pay for bond separate taxes, as a double taxes (taxation)

My opinion and thoughts on how to \$ave money, in our School system.

Yes you need extra space in the school to get the kids out of the trailers, it's up to you to be more of fiscal management (Live in a reality Budget going forward)

One fast question how many people reading this e-mail, that are making decision for the expansion for the school, do you live in Monroe Twp, and how long have you live Monroe Twp, (Why I ask this question as write the letter for the first time, that I realize where did all the money go with over 60% and business population combine together in the School system with no kids??????)

Point-1 I would try to do the following adds on class to each Schools build or build on attach, on top or sideways add on to existing school why?? Save hundreds thousand dollars... with out additional school administration for each building.

A- Great example Applegarth elementary schools , was across street from Oak Tree Elementary. Why do you have you have a full staff at Applegarth elementary ????? Why not use and share staff between both schools. Must come up with better ways to \$ave money..

Point-2 Architect Simplify not GRANDEUR ( example the Junior high was the original **high** schools was simple Architect adequate and safe, The new High was on GRANDEUR scale look like college, in small town, when the Architect design, should come up with more Simplify Architect , to \$ave money.

No separate bond before for 40 years, bond always taken from tax's money Why know separate bond ???? (Where did all the money go)

Point-4 Your New plan for 75,000,000 for each school x 2 150,000,000, it's like building another city in Twp.)

I would go back to the drawing board and Simplify the Architect, not GRANDEUR , New plan for 75,000 each x 2 150,000,000 , Why because not your money

Point-5 Check the resident status how many family per household, going to the Monroe Twp. School

System, Set up system for tracking...

Point-6 Multitasking how many position can multitask doing the day.... Make a list... Try to \$ave money??? ( That's what regular business do, business must make a profit, not raise taxes for every solution

POINT-7 BIG, VERY BIG QUESTION, The school taxes about 65% or more of every taxes \$100.00 (Dollar), MY Point or the bottom line, if you would take out all the seniors beside the senior development. And business, that's about 50% to 60% without KIDS in school... That means with family's kids would have to paying about 50% to 60% more taxes... More for School taxes

Point-8 I am hoping one Day all the board members in the Town of Monroe will work together, and put their view aside all your views, should for the taxes pay's ,.. (Trying to save taxes pay's money, seem it not work so far, taxes keep going up and trying double taxation thought Bond

Point- 9 Remember one thing the seniors are subsidize the Schools in Monroe Twp. cannot get a second job to pay for the taxes for your GRANDEUR idea's , every times go up senior must change their standard of living and lifestyle???? While people who get the raise get a better standard of living and Better lifestyle.

***Cathy Varacallo***

Confidential Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools  
Monroe Township Schools  
423 Buckelew Avenue  
Monroe Township, NJ 08831  
732-521-1500 ext. 5224

[External Email] Resident [REDACTED] input re school needs for the Ad Hoc Committee

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Fri 6/28/2019 2:48 AM

To: Ad Hoc <adhoc@Monroe.K12.NJ.US>;

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Monroe Township IT Department

**Residing at**  
**Mailing address:**

**Telephone:**

**Re: Resident input on school needs to deal with Monroe Township School District overcrowding.**

**Submitted 2019, June 28, Friday,**

**To the Board of Education Ad Hoc Committee,**

Regarding the schools overcrowding, there are two elephants in the room: one, overdevelopment of the township caused by poor planning of Mayoral administrations and Township Council, which has led to overcrowding and, two, the \$192.1 million voters have already approved for school capital projects since 1997.

As for the overdevelopment, until there is acknowledgement of Township Hall's failure to plan properly, I, and hopefully other voters, am unlikely to vote in favor of building more school space. Doing so would, in effect, say do not worry about your mistake and enable further poor planning. At the very least, the Board of Education should formally pass a resolution condemning Township Hall for this poor planning and specifically noting how it led to schools overcrowding, along with the Mayor and Township Council formally admitting Township Hall's failure to plan correctly. (For example, Monroe has incredibly failed to take advantage of an undeveloped New Jersey Turnpike and Route 33 corridors for commercial development, which would have meant high ratables and no schoolchildren. It also has failed to protect open space in various ways: by eliminating the designation for the environmentally significant Pine Barrens, by decreasing the voter-approved township Open Space Tax, and, in general, poor planning. As for some blaming state mandates for "affordable housing" being what is propelling development, that is nonsense. Yes, the state has unfairly changed the rules and increased Monroe's number of required units. But the township stood back while the state Legislature failed to create fair rules and relied on the "builder's remedy" of allowing a developer to build 80 percent open-market residences while providing 20 percent affordable. Instead, the township should have applied other methods – one, for example, is building its own "affordable housing," a money-saver in the long run. Well-respected township resident Sidna Mitchell, who currently sits on the township Open Space and Farmland Preservation Commission, is the former deputy director of the state Council on Affordable Housing. She can describe different ways, aside from the "builder's remedy," to meet affordable housing needs.)

As for the \$192.1 million voters approved since 1997, it normally takes 30 years to pay off the bonds providing the funds. So, we have not even paid off the \$192.1 million, but were being asked earlier this year to OK funding of \$146.7 million for the building of a new middle school and an addition to the high school, which would likely be projected to be paid off over 30 years. In only about 22 years, voters were asked to fund \$338.8 million – with that not likely being enough to cover building needs after only a few years. Monroe is not a legacy town, with half the town transitioning over only a few decades, if that, in the adult communities; newcomers moving into the new

housing, and the general movement a town has in terms of people moving in and out. However, while Monroe is not a legacy town, there are legacy families here. For example, my direct family has been in Monroe since 1953 (and prior to that in neighboring Helmetta to about 1900). Since 1953, my house has paid 67 years of Board of Education taxes without ever sending a child to district schools. I have no plans to leave Monroe, so I will continue to foot educational bills. I have no problem with paying legitimate public education bills; That is being part of a community. But I do have a problem paying for an educational system that has been grossly overburdened by poor government planning. How much money can be squeezed out of taxpayers?

Especially as an environmentalist – as an open space advocate – I have no intention to keep throwing money at schools whose overcrowding was caused by the constant irresponsible development of this open space. That would only enable the poor planning that got us into this mess.

However, I agree something has to be done. Where do we go from here? I see two reasonable options – one, year-round schooling or, two, renting existing buildings to house schoolchildren.

Regarding year-round school, what is wrong with it? Personally, I spent the summer of 1977 taking college classes and for three or four years over the last four or five years, I have worked in public classrooms over the summer. I currently work the summer in a Rutgers University writing center – the only writing center staffer available for Rutgers-New Brunswick's five campuses of undergraduates during the summer; Sometime, I wait for students to show up and, sometime, I work with five students at a time. In 2018, I not only worked the writing center by day, but taught non-fiction writing one day a week at night in Monmouth County. It is no big deal. A friend of mine taught for years in the Los Angeles school district, which used year-round schooling. Instead of a typical school year of, say, September to June, year-round schooling can work with quarters or trimesters, with students and teachers having off-time mixed in. The off-time for some frees up classroom space for others. For students needing to participate in outside-the-classroom activities (sports, plays, band, clubs, and so on), accommodations can be made. A teacher who believes in teaching and families who care about their children's educational needs would not have a problem working this type of schedule. Again, I am not speaking out of turn; I work an unconventional school schedule – summer and fall at Rutgers. If I pick up a teaching assignment or assignments in the spring, fine; If not, I do other work.

As for renting space, there seems to be plenty of buildings with space in the Monroe area, whether they are schools, warehouses, or other buildings. If a neighboring school district has the summer off, why cannot Monroe rent that school building space?

These are my feelings, but I am open to hear the thoughts of others. The Board of Education, however, has taken this jam-it-down-their-throats approach to referendums – although the school district will say it cannot tell people how to vote. Huh? The school district may not tell voters directly how to vote, but it knows how to try to jam a “Yes” vote down voters's throats. If this heavy-handed approach is again taken by the Board and other voters are like me, we will again retaliate against the Board.

# [External Email]MGT response to Monroe Township BOE RFP for Accommodating Increased Student Enrollment



Lani Colley <LColley@mgtconsulting.com>

Sun 6/30/2019 9:31 PM

To: Ad Hoc <adhoc@Monroe.K12.NJ.US>;

Cc: Michael van Hamel <MvanHamel@mgtconsulting.com>;

Importance: High

 1 attachments (2 MB)

MGT response to Monroe Township BOE Accommodate Increased Enrollment RFP 063019.pdf;

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Monroe Township IT Department

To Whom it May Concern,

MGT is pleased to present this response to Monroe Township Board of Education for Planning School Facilities to Accommodate Increased Student Enrollment RFP. I have attached our response in portable format document (.pdf). If you have any trouble opening the document, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you have any questions or would like additional information about the contents of our response or our qualifications, please contact MGT Vice President Melanie Hicks, who is serving as the Executive-in-Charge of this proposal. Dr. Hicks is copied on this email and available by phone at 813.344.7203.

May I impose on you to confirm your receipt of our email response?

Thank you very much for this opportunity.

**Lani Colley**

Project Administrator | Education Business Unit

1420 NE Marvin Rd., Suite C, #342

1 Olympia, WA 98516

(c) 360.259.9942 | (f) 850.385.4501

[lcolley@mgtconsulting.com](mailto:lcolley@mgtconsulting.com)

[www.mgtconsulting.com](http://www.mgtconsulting.com)



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7/1/2019

Mail - [adhoc@Monroe.K12.NJ.US](mailto:adhoc@Monroe.K12.NJ.US)

prohibited. Please consider the environment before printing this email.

[External Email]proposal to accomodate increased student enrollment



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Mon 7/1/2019 3:01 PM

To: Ad Hoc <adhoc@Monroe.K12.NJ.US>;

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Monroe Township IT Department

My apologies for sending this a day late. I'm a teacher and the end of the year was quite hectic between school and my children.

My idea is to bring back 6th grade to the upper elementary schools. If small additions are allowed, there would only be a need for classroom space and a bathroom. This would be more cost effective than the alternative of building a whole new middle school. As of right now, the 6th graders cannot participate in after school sports, only clubs. Bringing them back to the upper elementary schools would not effect their extra curricular activities. To be honest, it would benefit these kids because the school start time is a little later in the upper elementary schools compared to the middle school. The 6th. grade children that are involved in sports are still playing at the rec levels and game/practice nights can be very late for them because they are the "older" ones. In reality by the time they get back home, it's pretty late and it's not very healthy for them to lose that much sleep to get up earlier in the morning. The emotional level of an incoming 6th grader is quite immature compared to the rest of the middle school. Another year of recess and nurturing guidance would benefit all! Thank you for your time!

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**Dori Alvich**

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**From:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 11, 2019 8:16 PM  
**To:** Dori Alvich  
**Cc:** Kathy Kolupanowich  
**Subject:** [External Email]Ad Hoc Committee



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Monroe Township IT Department

Dear Dori,

Just long shot idea for the committee: If the state would fund a bare bones school, could we then legally ask the taxpayers to fund any enhancements the district feels is necessary? I realize this is next to impossible and would need state approval, but lobbying lawmakers and identifying our needs, might bring some positive result.

Sent from my iPad

From: Ad Hoc [adhoc@monroe.k12.nj.us](mailto:adhoc@monroe.k12.nj.us)  
Subject: Fw: [External Email]BOE Recommendation - School Funding  
Date: Jul 18, 2019 at 2:11:41 PM  
To: Dori Alvich [Dori.Alvich@monroe.k12.nj.us](mailto:Dori.Alvich@monroe.k12.nj.us)

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**From:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sent:** Friday, July 12, 2019 10:50 PM  
**To:** Ad Hoc  
**Subject:** [External Email]BOE Recommendation - School Funding

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Monroe Township IT Department

Hi,

Looking at the feedback, the primary reason i feel the referendum failed was due to concerns around taxation, especially from long time residents.

With that in mind, i feel a means to alleviate the concern is to shift the burden a little more towards newer residents who are moving i to town for better education and living and desire to grow a family in this town.

This can be accomplished by having a tiered slab for property taxation as oppsed to a flat rate for all.

For example

Familes who moved here (bought homes or rent here) prior to 2000 will see an increase of 0.5%, 2000 - 2005 an increase of 1%, 2005 - 2010 an increase of 1.5%, 2010 - 2015 2.5% 2015 and beyond 3.5%

This will shift most of the burden of funding to the families who actually have kids in school or have used the facilities of the school or are looking to grow families through this town's school system, at the same time having the older residents and seniors contribute a little to the overall well being of this town.

Regards,

From: Ad Hoc [ad\\_hoc@monroe.k12.nj.us](mailto:ad_hoc@monroe.k12.nj.us)

Subject: Fw: [External Email] suggestions to address space problem

Date: Jul 18, 2019 at 2:10:53 PM

To: Dori Alvich [DoriAlvich@monroe.k12.nj.us](mailto:DoriAlvich@monroe.k12.nj.us)

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**From:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 10:24 PM

**To:** Ad Hoc

**Subject:** [External Email] suggestions to address space problem

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Monroe Township IT Department

Bottomline: Problem is not space, it is Money.

Background:

Senior citizens of the township will not spend extra money to facilitate educational need

Monroe is predominantly elderly population

Young population is diverse but have little say in the voting process

Referendum did not pass due to high price tag of construction cost

Solution:

Reduce cost by 30-50% by completely adopting modular school buildings - <https://youtu.be/2IT9mGfzGr4>

Expand existing middle & high school with modular technique above

Convert Senior Centers into elementary school and relocate to old senior building as it is waste of money for many, this will force seniors to rethink their position  
establish campaign to adopt a class - in a senior community. Some people have big hearts

Ask township to introduce impact fee on any new sale of home to fund schools  
Any new construction should have additional tax (reasonable) assessed on the value of property for first 10 years. (Florida does this)

Share school with neighboring town to reduce cost

Lastly, kids doesn't need fancy building, they need better education in a friendly environment

From: Ad Hoc [adhoc@monroe.k12.nj.us](mailto:adhoc@monroe.k12.nj.us)  
Subject: Fw: [External Email]input  
Date: Jul 18, 2019 at 2:09:26 PM  
To: Dori Alvich [Dori.Alvich@monroe.k12.nj.us](mailto:Dori.Alvich@monroe.k12.nj.us)



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2019 11:42 AM  
**To:** Ad Hoc  
**Subject:** [External Email]input

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Monroe Township IT Department

How about building a basic school. Every new school doesn't have to be the Taj Mahal. We don't need more Performing Arts Centers and gyms and labs. All these extra costs are redundant, these facilities can be shared. The tax payers of Monroe are tired of the B of E thinking they have an open check book and can spend however they want.

\_\_\_\_\_

## Dori Alvich

**From:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 24, 2019 5:51 PM  
**To:** ADHOC@MONROE.K12.NJ.US; Dori Alvich  
**Subject:** [External Email] Proposal for ADHOC Committee from, \_\_\_\_\_

26

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the school district. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Monroe Township IT Department

To: ADHOC@MONROE.K12.NJ.US

Date: July 24, 2019

Honorable members of Ad HOC Committee following is the proposal for your review and consideration:

**Proposal: Current Middle School for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Students only. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade students stay in Elementary school or redistributed across Elementary schools in our Township.**

### Advantage:

- No need to build another new Middle School.
- Long term solution
- Can be implemented within a year.
- Will meet current school capacity hence no trailers are required.
- Cost savings of greater than \$75 million as no new school required.
- No increase in property taxes.
- No trailers required for MS, cost savings will help to retain clubs, AP programs and bus transportation.

### Examples:

- Bridgewater-Raritan MS with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade - School Digger Rank 144 out of 716 Middle School in NJ for 2018
- Manalapan Englishtown MS with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade - School Digger Rank 124 out of 716 Middle Schools in NJ for 2018
- Monroe Township MS with 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – School Digger Ranked 152 out of 716 Middle School in NJ for 2018

**Summary:** We propose that the current Middle School in our Township be for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades only. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade students can stay in same Elementary school or can be redistributed to other Elementary schools in our township,

The enrollment of Elementary Schools except on Applegarth is decreasing. Hence, redistribution of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students across Elementary schools will make them to work at full capacity.

As per Digger Report and data provided in agenda of June 2019 BOE meeting, enrollment in Brookside Elementary school was 671 in 2011 and has dropped to 402 as of June 2019. Enrollment in Woodland Elementary school was 512 in 2011 and has dropped to 351 as of June 2019. Enrollment in Applegarth Elementary school was 285 students in 2013 and has increased to 441 students in June 2019. Following table illustrates results. Overall enrolment has decreases in Woodland and Brookside elementary school and has capacity to absorb 6<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Elementary School	Enrollment 2011	Enrollment June 2019	Difference
Applegarth	285	441	+156
Brookside	671	402	-269
Woodland	512	351	-161
<b>Total</b>	1468	1194	-274

There are Middle schools in NJ and across USA with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade only. So this practice is not new, Manalapan English Town MS and Bridgewater Raritan with MS for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade have better ranking than our Monroe Township MS with 6 to 8<sup>th</sup> grade (see data provided in examples above). Having MS with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade will eliminate overcrowding of our MS and improve ranking of MS.

Since we don't need an additional MS, this will prohibit further increase in taxes in our township, benefit to seniors and low and middle income families. Since the MS will be across the High School, sharing of playgrounds and recreation facility will be a benefit.

This project can be implemented within a year. The need of trailers for MS will go away, the cost saving will help to retain all our club activities AP programs and bus transportation.

Regards



**Dori Alvich**

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**From:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 25, 2019 3:19 PM  
**To:** Dori Alvich; Ad Hoc  
**Cc:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Subject:** [External Email]Planning School Facilities to Accommodate Increased Student Enrollment - \_\_\_\_\_

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Monroe Township IT Department

Dr. Dori,

Good Afternoon. The email to the adhoc email address provided has bounced multiple times - I am not sure if the adhoc email address is enabled. Can you please confirm the receipt of this email? This email has my recommendations for the school facilities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
email \_\_\_\_\_

mobile : { \_\_\_\_\_

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date:** Thu, Jul 25, 2019 at 9:40 AM  
**Subject:** Response to Request for Proposals - Planning School Facilities to Accommodate Increased Student Enrollment  
**To:** <adhoc@monroe.k12.nj.us>  
**Cc:** { \_\_\_\_\_

Take a look at the actual enrollment numbers and the projected enrollment numbers. The projected enrollment numbers with the district administration overestimate the actual enrollment numbers

Re-district the elementary school(s). Enrollment in some elementary schools has gone down. Enrollment in Oak Tree Elementary has gone up. This is based on actual numbers. The redistricting will distribute the K-5 across the elementary schools, and provide space for 6th grade to be accommodated in elementary schools.

Move the 6th grade back to elementary school. This is normal in many towns.

Along with redistricting, this will provide a breather for the middle school. With K-6 being the elementary school, the new middle school has only 7th, and 8th grades. There are no need for trailers at MS.

In High School, tie-up with community colleges to provide AP and Honors classes. Along with smart scheduling, we can hold off on trailers for HS - until the HS expansion is completed.

In short -

- Move 6th Grade back to elementary schools. Elementary schools are now K-6 as is the case in many townships
- Redistrict the elementary schools
- Middle School is only 7th grade and 8th grade. There is no need for a new middle school
- Tie-up with Community College for AP/HONORS classes.
- With a smart bell schedule and creative scheduling, and AP/HONORS classes at Community College - we can reduce the number of trailers needed at HS.
- Plan to expand the High School - Get that on a referendum ASAP and get the expansion done in less than 2 years.

[REDACTED]  
email : [REDACTED]

mobile : [REDACTED]

**Dori Alvich**

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**From:** Ad Hoc  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 30, 2019 9:56 AM  
**To:** Dori Alvich  
**Subject:** Fw: [External Email]Strategy for Finding the "Best" Solution to Monroe's School Overcrowding Problem  
**Attachments:** Schools.doc

28

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 29, 2019 11:52 PM  
**To:** Ad Hoc <adhoc@monroe.k12.nj.us>  
**Subject:** [External Email]Strategy for Finding the "Best" Solution to Monroe's School Overcrowding Problem

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the school district. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Monroe Township IT Department

Dear Ad Hoc Committee Members:

I very carefully reviewed the video's of the Student Growth Advisory Committee (SGAC) meetings in 2016 and came to the conclusion that the **process** that was followed after receipt of the SGAC's recommendations is what led to the failure of the last two referendums. With my experience in the engineering of major projects at a major oil company, I chose to offer up a suggested strategy or process to find the "best" solution to Monroe's school overcrowding problem. I have attached a Microsoft Word-equivalent document for your further consideration. Please let me know if I can be of further help.

Sincerely,

---

## Strategy for Finding the “Best Solution” to Monroe’s School Overcrowding Problem

- Clearly define the extent of the problem (overcrowding at the high school, overcrowding at the middle school, overcrowding at one or more of the elementary schools, etc). Concurrently, get the Buildings, Grounds, and Transportation Committee (BGTC) to confirm the following: (1) that the enrollment projections being used are based on the latest information and methods available, (2) that the school capacity calculations are consistent with the latest industry practices.
- Clarify for what time period is this solution supposed to address (5 years, 7 years, 10 years, etc).
- Agree on what the characteristics of the “best solution” should encompass (minimum capital investment; maximum utilization of existing space throughout the district; minimum number of new schools which necessitate land acquisitions and separate administrative staffs; minimum disruption to teachers, students, and parents, etc).
- Agree that the “best solution” is one we can implement on our own with little or no dependency on outside events (impact fees, fair school funding, renegotiation of affordable housing requirements, etc). This does not mean that we should stop pressing for these changes.
- Agree that long-term use of portable classroom units (trailers) is unacceptable.
- Start off by considering the (3) options that were recommended by the Student Growth Advisory Committee (SGAC), perhaps with modifications to make them current.
- Just as the SGAC did, find the (3) most promising options overall that address the school overcrowding problem.
- Get the BGTC’s and then the Board of Education’s (BoE) buy-in to further evaluate these (3) options.
- Obtain further details about these (3) options (conceptual sketches of any school additions/new construction, construction estimates and schedules, etc).

- Hire an independent contractor experienced in public school design and construction utilizing the latest industry practices (not the district's architect) to prepare the necessary information. This is not intended to be detailed design but sufficient detail to help evaluate the (3) options.
- Conduct one or two town hall meetings to present the (3) options and gather further input from the residents. Consider innovative ways to poll the audience at these meetings.
- Finalize recommendation as to which option is indeed the "best solution" and get buy-in from the BGTC and BoE to proceed with submission of a proposal to the county and state.

**I very strongly encourage the use of a project planning tool like Microsoft Project to lay-out this or an alternate strategy.**

July 30, 2019

**Dori Alvich**

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**From:** Ad Hoc  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 30, 2019 9:56 AM  
**To:** Dori Alvich  
**Subject:** Fw: [External Email]School proposal

29

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 29, 2019 6:35 PM  
**To:** Ad Hoc <adhoc@monroe.k12.nj.us>  
**Subject:** [External Email]School proposal

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Monroe Township IT Department

Here are some suggestions for schools to minimize the financial burden on us all.

We must look a grade realignments 1st to save millions.

We can make the High School grades 10-11-12

Current Middle School: 8th and 9th grade

If we have to build a school, build it for 5,6 7th graders. By doing this, the 5th grade will be removed from our Elementary schools, reducing the overcrowding issues there. You can also realign the Elementary Schools too, to avoid building an addition on HS or new Elementary School. I looked at the numbers, it is feasible, hope you consider it. At least do the High School as suggested to avoid a 75-90 million addition. The current High School will suffice with only 3 grades.

## Dori Alvich

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**From:** Ad Hoc  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 30, 2019 9:55 AM  
**To:** Dori Alvich  
**Subject:** Fw: [External Email] Suggestions for AD HOC committee on school overcrowding from M. Beachem

30

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 26, 2019 6:54 PM  
**To:** Ad Hoc <adhoc@monroe.k12.nj.us>  
**Subject:** [External Email] Suggestions for AD HOC committee on school overcrowding from [REDACTED]

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Monroe Township IT Department

Good evening Monroe Township Board of Education AD HOC committee:

Thank you for offering the opportunity to provide suggestions, and ask questions to gain better insight into the current need of the schools.

First off, I do understand that this is a critical situation. I believe the first question residents need to have \*better\* explained is how did we possibly get into this situation in the first place.? A few years back when there was big debate about building a brand new high school on controversial park land it seemed that this new state of the art facility would last us for a least 2-3 decades as the old high school did. While residents are pleased with low taxes, we need to better understand how did we go about building so many developments for families, to keep taxes low, that we did not foresee this dilemma that we are now faced with overcrowding?

Many in the town, I believe, are thrilled with the Jamesburg Boys School (in Monroe) finally closing. My understanding is that this land would be turned over to the town for 'Open Land' greenspace, correct? My thought and suggestion would be to consider taking this centrally located land and building a huge (that could last a number years) on this property. We have built on parks before, why now try for round two? A new building could be built or perhaps retrofitting the historic features of the current campus into a new building. The Ryan field is near by and this could be expanded to allow for public and school sport training ground. The question would be to do as we did last time with Thompson Park and find equitable land to compensate for the loss of the Boys School land.

Once complete... the current high school could become a middle school or perhaps junior high (6-8th or 9th) and then the current middle school (former original high school) could become an (3rd-5th). Freeing up space in the currently elementary schools for pre-K thru 2nd.

I would like to see any new building built to have state of the art eco-friendly design. I think being at the forefront in your pitch to build an eco friendly high school could find others to get behind funding something like this on the state level and by private companies with sponsorship. It also would create an educational role modeling for our students that are concerned about their futures facing climate change.

I believe the second referendum failed simply because it was done too quickly on the heels of the first referendum without the town feeling like we were being heard and concerns answered for how we got into this situation. The opportunity to offer feedback is a good first step toward, perhaps, turning the tide for round three and you know they say 3rd times a charm.

I look forward to hearing further from the committee and board once you review all suggestions. Thank you.

Best regards,

\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*

Anyone wishing to make suggestions to the board by July 31 can email proposals to [ADHOC@MONROE.K12.NJ.US](mailto:ADHOC@MONROE.K12.NJ.US) or by mailing them to Monroe Township BOE, 423 Buckelew Ave. Monroe Township, NJ 08831

**Dori Alvich**

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**From:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 31, 2019 3:03 PM  
**To:** Dori Alvich  
**Subject:** [External Email]Fwd: ad hoc comm proposal

31

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Monroe Township IT Department

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date:** Wed, Jul 31, 2019 at 9:29 AM  
**Subject:** ad hoc comm proposal  
**To:** <[adhoc@monroe.k12.nj.us](mailto:adhoc@monroe.k12.nj.us)>

Dear Ad Hoc Committee:

A suggestion: Change the current Middle School to 8,9 and build a new 6,7 school. Use existing owned land (Golf site).

Thank you for your consideration,

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**Dori Alvich**

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**From:** Ad Hoc  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 1, 2019 12:47 PM  
**To:** Dori Alvich  
**Subject:** Fw: [External Email]Proposal for Middle and High school overcrowding

32

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 31, 2019 10:59 PM  
**To:** Ad Hoc <adhoc@monroe.k12.nj.us>  
**Subject:** [External Email]Proposal for Middle and High school overcrowding

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Monroe Township IT Department

Hi, here is my proposal for Middle and High school overcrowding

1. Move one grade from middle school to upper Elementary school and one from upper elementary school to lower elementary school to have even distribution of students.
2. Ask Builders for one time fee to pay for infrastructure. Township should reject or delay new development projects, builders sue but still short term will delay new student enrollment.

Shortlisted Proposals before finalizing should be discussed with parents by conducting townhalls or survey. Let the best proposal win.

What people of township want to see if the school board comes up with new Solutions have proposals to use the current school infrastructure efficiently and bring the down the cost of next referendum. That the only way to get the next referendum passed.

Thanks

## Dori Alvich

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**From:** Ad Hoc  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 1, 2019 12:48 PM  
**To:** Dori Alvich  
**Subject:** Fw: [External Email]Proposal to Alleviate OverCrowding Schools  
**Attachments:** Proposal to Alleviate Over-crowding of Monroe Township Schools\_Schrob.pdf



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**From:**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 30, 2019 9:56 PM  
**To:** Ad Hoc <adhoc@monroe.k12.nj.us>  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** [External Email]Proposal to Alleviate OverCrowding Schools

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Monroe Township IT Department

Monroe Ad Hoc Committee -

Attached please find my proposal to alleviate over-crowding schools in Monroe. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

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# *Proposal to Alleviate Over-crowding of Monroe Township Schools*

Presented to BOE Ad Hoc Committee

## *Contact Information*

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Monroe Township

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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## ***Proposal to Alleviate Over-Crowding Schools***

- **Issues**
  - Current overcrowding at high school and middle school
  - Projected increased overcrowding at elementary schools
  - Limited funding to pay for new schools or addition to schools
- **Proposed Solution for Middle and Elementary Schools**
  - New Intermediate school (district wide 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade school)
  - Lower cost to build, staff and maintain an “intermediate school” than a middle school
  - Pulling 6<sup>th</sup> grade from middle school and 5<sup>th</sup> grade from elementary schools alleviates overcrowding at both levels
  - Combines students district wide at 5<sup>th</sup> grade, promoting more unity across the district at an earlier age
  - A second middle school would result in division within the community and unwanted competition between the two schools (academics and sports)

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## ***Proposal to Alleviate Over-Crowding Schools***

- **Proposed Solution for Middle and Elementary Schools (cont.)**
  - Any increased cost in transportation needed for intermediary school would be more than offset by the lower costs of operating an intermediary school versus a second middle school
  - Rather than adding a fifth transition to a new school, all existing elementary schools can potentially be converted to K-4 schools, resulting in the first school transition for students at 5<sup>th</sup> grade (For example, both Oak Tree and Applegarth could be K-4 schools)
- **Proposed Solution for High School**
  - Build addition to current high school
- **Achieving Success in Getting Referendum Passed**
  - Proposed solution for intermediate school and high school addition should be packaged together and costs clearly communicated
  - Schedule series of town hall gatherings in Q&A type style so community feels more part of proposal
  - Impact to property taxes should be considered and communicated

From:  
Sent:  
To:  
Subject:

[REDACTED]  
Monday, June 10, 2019 4:56 PM  
adhoc@monroe.k12.nj.us  
[External Email]Proposals



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Monroe Township IT Department

I was not sure I had submitted these proposals prior.

I am proposing setting up a Go Fund Me account or fundraiser type of account with a set dollar amount/goal in mind. This way residents can contribute what they would like to, instead of having their property taxes raised. This way, residents can send to family/friends outside of the school district in case they would like to contribute. What is raised can offset the property tax increase.

We can also ask local businesses and religious groups if they would like to "sponsor a brick" type of situation. This way the entire community can be involved. The town growing in residents also means additional funds for local businesses that reside here. Maybe, materials and services could even be donated?

The other option is to continue to speak with our state representatives and lobby to get additional funds for our schools to be built. Monroe made the list of the top fastest 30 towns growing in NJ, although most areas in NJ are losing people. <https://expo.nj.com/news/g66l-2019/01/718c1f0a67574/the-30-fastest-growing-towns-i.html> I'm sure our population is much higher now that what this article published.

Another option is any new building moving forward, the builders should be charged a fee in their zoning permit for us to accommodate services for new residents. This seems to have been brought up in the past: <https://www.nytimes.com/1998/04/13/nyregion/new-jersey-towns-want-builders-to-pay-fees-for-the-costs-of-growth.html>. If builders want to build and profit from Monroe, why should the tax payer take the burden of providing public services for those new residents that the builder profits from, and the town profits from in property tax, sewer, water etc.

Last option, the newer homes/residents should pay a fee, kind of like a luxury tax. When I moved to Monroe in 2013 I bought a smaller older home built in 1969. I did not contribute to the over growth issue, and I have one child. These giant new homes that accommodate large families should have to pay considerably more than people in the older homes that were part of the town before the explosion in growth.

Thank you for your consideration,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]