



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 28, 2019

Mr. Kevin Aguiar and Members of the Portsmouth Town Council
Town of Portsmouth
2200 East Main Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Dear President Aguiar and Honorable Town Council Members,

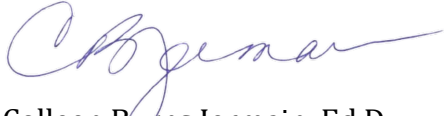
Newport Public Schools is undergoing the RIDE submission process for school construction. As part of this process, I am reaching out to you to see if there is any desire for discussion on a unified school district to provide the best educational opportunities for all our children while being responsible to our communities relating to rising costs and possible tax implications for our residents now and in the future. I am wondering 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 includes career and technical opportunities that combines the best of what we do and more for the entire Aquidneck Island public school students – and receive an 80.5% reimbursement rate on all costs on this project, as well as any other projects Portsmouth may be considering for the future.

I am requesting fifteen minutes of your time on a future agenda to discuss the possibilities of working together to share a conceptual possibility your community may want to explore for the delivery of educational services for the future. The offer of reimbursement and funding is time sensitive and limited. Before Newport moves forward on its own I would

Page 2
May 28, 2019

like to have a chance to have a conversation and explore any and all options possible for our schools on Aquidneck Island.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CBJ', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Colleen Burns Jermain, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

CBJ/cn

cc: Richard Rainer, Jr., Portsmouth Town Administrator
Mr. Raymond Gomes, Chair, Newport School Committee
Newport School Committee Members
Honorable Mayor Jaime Bova and Newport City Council
Joseph Nicholson, Newport City Manager