

TOWN OF RANDOLPH

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

121 KINDERHOOK STREET
RANDOLPH, ME 04346

Telephone 582-5808
Fax 582-3854

Dear School Board Members,

On behalf of the citizens of the Town of Randolph, the Board of Selectmen would like to share with you some of the concerns that have been raised throughout the process of closing the Teresa C. Hamlin Elementary School in Randolph. On Tuesday, February 13, 2018, a group of more than 40 members of the greater school community gathered to express their feelings on the closing of the school to the Board.

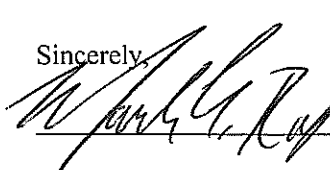
In regards to the use of modular units: members of the community shared concerns about the use of modular units on the Pittston School campus, including asking which students would be educated in that four-unit space, the transfer of students between that building and the main building in inclement weather, and also raised concerns about the safety of the students in the modular units during lockdown situations, and asked about the previous success of modular units.

In regards to the recommendation by the ad-hoc committee: questions were asked about the amount of information that was available to the ad-hoc committee which made the recommendation to the School Board to close TC Hamlin, specifically about where the cost savings would be used, the additional costs of repaying the bonds early, and what additional costs might be incurred by the taxpayers of Randolph if the Town elected to keep the school open.

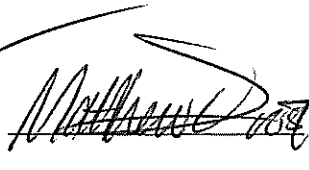
In regards to the effects on the community as a whole: the theme of concerns at the forum were about community – not only the effect on the Town of Randolph and the permanency of the decision to close our local school, but also putting in jeopardy our emergency shelter, our playgrounds and our meeting space – but also about the effect on our neighboring towns and the perceived lack of input other communities have had. This decision has an impact beyond the economics of the Town of Randolph, but also school community wide, and the attendees of the forum shared their concerns about receiving input from all four communities before a decision has been made.

Although it would be difficult to capture the feeling of each Randolph resident or concerned community member, one common recommendation continued to be offered – keeping the school open for at least an additional year will accomplish many goals including paying one additional penalty free year on the bond debt, allowing the Town of Randolph to position itself to accept the school if offered, to allow the School Board to receive information and input from other Towns and then make a sound decision about the education of our students perhaps without the use of modular units.

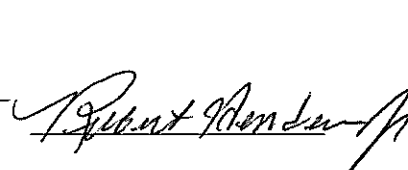
Sincerely,



Chairman, Mark Roberts



Selectman, Matthew Drost



Selectman, Robert Henderson