

March 4, 1973
11 Cypress St.
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Madame Mayor and City Councilors,

Over the past few years there has been the problem of renovating the two high schools. Before any final plans are made I would like to make a suggestion that is a possible solution to two problems.

Belmont recently completed building an excellent high school facility with adequate space and athletic facilities. I propose that Cambridge should investigate the school and consider building one similar but with the same quality. I am not aware of whether their shop facilities are of a wide range but Cambridge should have a wide range of shops. This proposal would create only one high school but I feel that we should stop wasting our abilities and give all the students in Cambridge equal education. Those who know me know that I would be among the last to have both Rindge Tech and Cambridge Latin lose their identity but now is the time for us to change our views and let the school system do its first important duty towards the students, a good equal and wide range education with only the best of facilities.

The question, Where will it be built?, now arises. The answer is on the present site of the Cambridge Infirmary and Greenhouse at Fresh Pond. It is an ideal place to construct the Belmont type facility because of the nice environment which is similar to the Belmont environment.

Also there is another reason for this particular site. At Fresh Pond there are a number of athletic facilities which are used throughout the year. There is the soccer field, baseball field, tennis courts, golf course, cross country track. Also in the immediate area there will be an MDC skating rink (Belmont built their own which is much better kept up and is of better construction without spending more than the MDC and the Belmont team has first priority which is something neither of the 5 or 6 high school teams got at the existing Gore Street rink), a football field, and other facilities to be built at the old city dump.

It is much better to spend 25 million dollars on a completely new facility now than to have to spend 16 million for modernization now and another 10 million in future years for constant updating while the building becomes ancient. Both the high schools are housed in buildings at least 30 to 40 years old. They weren't built to meet today's needs.

The question now arises concerning the Infirmary. Well they city is going to spend close to 2.9 million in renovation but this facility is almost ancient itself. I propose that a new facility be built either at the present site of CHLS or down near Kendall Square.

It is about time that the city do something good for its young and its old because we were all young and we are damn sure we will be old someday. Please consider this as an alternative and give it some thought before going back to what appears to be reality.

Sincerely,

Francis E. Murphy III

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Rindge Tech Class of '72

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Rindge Tech Class of '72

10/ 93
Comm. from Francis E. Murphy III,
re:-High School Complex.

In City Council,

March 5, 1973

*Copy to Urban
Committee
For
Report*