

Reasons to Vote YES on Nov. 7 Winslow School Bond #3:

Cutting corners on a capital project expected to last 20-30 years is penny-wise and pound-foolish. You might save a little now, but you'll have to come back to the well soon for more money to add on again. Ironically, many of the insufficiencies of the last High School addition are being dredged up and thrown back at this project as arguments against it. Some of frugality of last time resulted in the construction of only a half-size auxiliary gym, a theatre of only 200 seats with no provision for storage or set construction, and a missed opportunity to provide air conditioning for the existing school and theatre. Now this new project is forced to clean up two of those shortcomings by building the other half of the auxiliary gym and building a new theatre of practical size to provide for the needs of both the High School and Junior High students. I have heard at the meetings that the Elementary School would also hold their concerts in the new PAC. Thus, arguing for frugality when a huge part of the current expense is cleaning up the shortcomings of past frugality is self-defeating logic that will further compound the cost of future facilities needs. It is the proverbial kicking the can down the road. The current proposal is right-sized, but you'd have to have heard all the information from all the committee sessions to feel as confident as I do. There was a lot of back-and-forth, addressing concerns about needs, and also reining in dreams. The architect, Mr. Blatt seems a pragmatic and creative individual and is truly maximizing what Winslow's dollar will buy.

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Opinion by Tom McCowan

Who is this guy?

- Winslow homeowner since 2001; selected Winslow because of excellent schools
- Real estate lawyer in Waterville
- Father of one WHS graduate and one senior; husband of WHS teacher