

September 22, 2026

Dear members of the Woodbridge Board of Education, Board of Selectmen, and Board of Finance,

As the Town considers the future of Beecher Road School, I want to bring to your attention a potentially unresolved financial question concerning the existing swimming pool and building systems installed in this area of the school as part of the 2014–16 renovation project.

The pool-area work was not maintenance of an aging facility. The renovation project expressly included improvements serving the pool area — including replacement of the pool dehumidification system, pool-area building-envelope work and an energy system designed in part to provide heat for pool water — with an expected useful life of approximately 20 – 25 years.

The pool remained in operation through 2022 when an engineering evaluation described it as being used for public swimming and documented its circulation system operating during the inspection. By June 2023, however, a subsequent engineering inspection recorded: “Pool empty, Dectron still running.”

This history raises questions that should be answered before the Town makes additional long-term financial commitments involving the Beecher property.

As you are aware, the 2014–16 Beecher project ultimately received approximately \$2.58 million in state school-construction reimbursement. Pool-area improvements were included in the project submitted to the State, but the final grant records do not show how much, if any, of those costs were ultimately deemed eligible for reimbursement.

I therefore respectfully submit the following questions for your consideration and request that, if necessary, the Town obtain a written determination from the CT Department of Administrative Services:

1. How much of the cost of improvements serving the pool or natatorium — including its dehumidification, HVAC, building-envelope and pool-water-heating systems — was ultimately deemed eligible for state reimbursement?
2. I understand that state law provides that grants for projects costing \$2 million or more are amortized on a straight-line basis over 20 years, beginning “on the date the project was accepted as complete by the local or regional board of education.” Please confirm that the Board of Education’s May 16, 2017 acceptance of the completed Beecher project began that 20-year period, which therefore runs through May 16, 2037.
3. Town records indicate the pool closed on September 3, 2022, approximately 64 months into the 240-month grant-amortization period, with approximately 176 months — nearly 15 years — remaining. It never reopened, and at its March 2024 meeting the Board of Finance was advised by the First Selectman about a decision that the pool would remain closed. Does the cessation of school and public use constitute an abandonment or other redirection of use under the state school-construction grant requirements?
4. If so, what portion of the applicable state grant remained unamortized when that use ceased, and does the pool’s existing status create any repayment, adjustment, approval, waiver or other obligation to the State?
5. Was DAS notified when the pool ceased operating or ceased being available for school or public use and, if so, when was that notification made and what determination did DAS make?

6. Separately, should the proposed school project proceed, would either demolition of the pool/natatorium or retaining it in an indefinitely mothballed state, with no plan to return it to school or public use, constitute abandonment or another change in use under the state grant requirements? If so, would a BOS decision to submit either option to referendum require notice to DAS and potentially trigger repayment of any unamortized grant funds not already implicated by the pool's existing closure and non-use?

I am not asserting that repayment is required, nor can I determine from the records available the amount, if any, of pool-related costs ultimately reimbursed by the State. Given the substantial state grant for the 2014–16 project and the relatively recent improvements serving the pool area it included, I am asking whether the pool's existing closure and non-use already have consequences under the prior state grant, and whether the proposed Beecher project — through either demolition or indefinite mothballing of the pool/natatorium — would create any further obligation.

I believe any current financial exposure, if it exists, should be determined now, before the Town takes action to advance the Beecher project.

I would appreciate a written response so these questions can be resolved as part of the public record.

Sincerely,



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