



# SWAMPSCOTT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Committee  
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## Swampscott School Committee Unanimously Supports the Rail Trail – June 14, 2017

The Swampscott School Committee unanimously joins the following boards and committees in supporting the creation of the Swampscott Rail Trail – a 2-mile linear park benefitting all neighborhoods and all ages.

Swampscott Board of Selectmen  
Finance Committee  
Capital Improvement Committee

Conservation Commission  
Planning Board

Open Space Committee  
Recreation Committee

The Swampscott Rail Trail represents an important investment in our schools as it passes close to three schools and athletic fields, thereby establishing a much-needed healthy and safe path to school and recreation.

The School Committee disputes the statements by some people that money used to support the Rail Trail directly takes away from capital funds available for our schools. The Swampscott Rail Trail is an important investment for every resident of Swampscott. We believe that the creation of a rail trail does not represent an either-or scenario for the town. We do not have to choose between a rail trail or good schools, we can have both.

Prior generations' deferred maintenance coupled with changing educational requirements have left our aging school buildings - Hadley (1911), Stanley (1929), Clarke (1952), and the Middle School (1958) - grossly inadequate to support 21st century teaching and learning. In the past 5 years, the School Department and School Committee have sought and have received an unprecedented increase in capital funding to make sensible and important upgrades and repairs to our school facilities. Thanks to this increased investment, and the leadership of the town's first-ever Director of Facilities, the School Department has made significant improvements to ensure that our staff and students are safe and the educational environment is conducive to learning.

In April, the School Committee and Board of Selectmen approved the Superintendent's Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in order to begin again the process of securing necessary state funding to help replace our aging elementary schools or middle school. Recognizing this, the School Committee will continue to responsibly balance investment in these aging buildings, focusing on items critical to support a safe school environment which is conducive to learning.

The School Committee is resolved to support important community-wide investments such as the Rail Trail in order to increase the quality of life and the broader sense of community for all of Swampscott.