



Pawtucket School Committee
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December 16, 2022

Honorable Mayor Donald Grebien
Mr. David Moran, President
Pawtucket City Council
Pawtucket City Hall
135 Roosevelt Avenue
Pawtucket RI 02860

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Dear Mayor Grebien and Councilor Moran,

I am writing on behalf of the School Committee to inform you about Shea High School's need for immediate repairs and ask that the city authorize the School Committee to move forward with these repairs using the identified funding source of the voter-approved \$220 million bond.

The New England Association Of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Public Schools (NEASC) recently toured Shea High School. Although impressed with curriculum, caring culture, Career-Technical Education, and the positive supportive teaching staff, NEASC has identified facilities areas that need to be addressed or Shea risks losing accreditation. Specifically, they identified heating, electrical, and auditorium work as facilities improvements that are needed.

A loss of accreditation is devastating for a school and community. It can precipitate a loss of State and Federal funds and jeopardize students' ability to complete the FAFSA and receive aid for college, among other ramifications.

In order to show progress and, most importantly, provide the best learning environment we possibly can at Shea while awaiting the Unified High School, the Committee needs to determine a funding source to promptly address the deficiencies noted in the letter before we submit our response to NEASC in October of 2023.

The ideal funding source to complete these repairs is the voter-approved \$220 million bond, which set aside \$50 million for Shea High School. The reasons for using this bond as the funding source are two-fold, based around time and money-savings.

1. There are time savings: we have already completed a Stage 1 and Stage 2 with RI Department of Education (RIDE) that identifies the \$220 million as a funding source. This is an advantage because it means that we can move forward with Stage 3 immediately and begin to solicit bids to complete the work and that we will be reimbursed by the state for this work.