

Mastroianni, Tina

From: tiparrillo@verizon.net
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2025 6:47 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony and statement on Asa Messer /excel

New Plan for Messer

To: Superintendent, Martinez. All of Providence School Department administration, Building Committee, Providence School Board, Council people in our district and for the whole city, the City council, Mayor Smiley, all State officials, including the Commissioner and state Education board all the way to the Governor;

I'll start by saying a Simple statement, "Change the plan on Asa Messer Elementary School"! WE were just recognized by the state/Governor, and Board of Education for being the best Elementary school in Providence, and one of the best in the state. We just moved to being a 3 Star Elementary School! We as a staff during COVID, building operations, and overall facilities were recognized for the Best handling of Protocols, to screen, keep students going to school, having a healthy and safe environment. We have improved our Attendance, to higher than it was before COVID, (also recognized by the state) at the State of the State for this improvement in attendance. We are the poster School and Best example and used for setting #Mathmatters #AttendanceMatters improving RICAS in Math and Literacy.

Why would, the city, the school department, the state decision makers, put this school on a list to move us out of a safe, structurally sound immaculate building and campus that has already had upgrades; to improve an already highly rated accessible school building, school campus, and fully functional PreK-4th grade school that only needs some work to "make it like new". I know the PreK-8 plan is the prime reason, but not all schools will be making that change. (Ex: Nathan Bishop and Vartan). Who always get their way. Pleasant View elementary did not change to K-8th. We should not be on any plan to be moved or shut down at all. Especially since we were just added to the phase 2 building plans, right before and during the time the Library and boiler system were upgraded. So knock us down after you spent a ton of \$ to upgrade. If West Broadway Middle School is the problem, but yet they get to stay in their building for the two years like the "Plan" says, then change the plan, knock down Carl Lauro, build a new state of the art Middle school there, where our students would transition for Middle school. Just like they do now to West Broadway Students and families remain together from Prek-8, unless those parents choose to move their child to another Middle school in or out of the district. This is the case with West Broadway and Asa Messer already. Just like Vartan and Nathan Bishop were allowed to remain, Asa Messer should remain the same as well.

In the last two years, the district has spent money on installing a new heating system in the 2023-2024 year. It also spent money on upgrading and renovating the library. There is a new roof, which was installed within the last 4-5 years. WE have a fully wheelchair accessible building, and PreK Playground. We have access to a field and walking track and a good school yard that could have some improvements for safety to make like new. The improvements

needed could still come from the bond money to make Asa Messer Elementary a model 21st century school building. Make basic structural improvements, like leaky areas, Better HVAC system for air quality and AC, paint and room improvements, and better use of all the space in the school, for storage, turning dead space into useful space for the special classes like Music, Art, library and a few things in the large middle school gym to make it even better. This should be the only plan period.

Asa Messer is the least in need of being demolished, which is the new plan, from the original plan/design to build off of what's here now. The reasoning to speed up the moving phase and get it started phase is not valid. The 90% reimbursement from the state runs out in 2029 but the use of the bond funding should go to more Educational sound decisions and better use. Using some of the bond money \$3mill was last total know of it to slap some paint and get Carl Lauro barely suitable for a working teaching and learning space is a waste of that money period. Wasteful spending . It's not the Narducci Center at all. Which should just be turned into a new school like new as well.

Again, we should be off this list for this plan. And if this plan is to go forward, there is no reason to rush, we could all transition to Narducci center which has already been constructed for such a transition, after the schools in there now have moved back to their new buildings

My next question comes off all that I have just stated. Since this makes no sense, I, along with others (including families, parents community members, former educators from the district, who in some way have been kept in the dark of the original plan, the closing plan and the building committee meetings.

I have asked this question every meeting and I'll ask it again. Which gets scheduled poorly and no one attends. Asa Messer Prek-8, will remain a Providence School Department school? Our entire staff, teachers, administration will be transitioning back to our school, with no rehiring or need to apply for your job tactics when it's all done? We are performing the way we do because of the team and organization that serves these students and families, in one of the best buildings of the district. At the meetings we have heard yes, but all the decisions from the building committee to the school board, and the push for more Achievement First Charter Schools in Providence, make many of us think that is not 100% accurate and or fully the truth. Since the Excel/Achievement 1st Charter Co. couldn't buy Carl Lauro for a \$1, blocked by city council (Rachel Miller was one of the prime advocates to block it) and needed to look elsewhere, and this school already got upgrades and is in need of Less costly renovations So it would make a great location for that to happen. The timing of Asa Messer being put on the list, the upgrades, and the almost sabotage move for Asa Messer(the best elementary in Providence to be moved out is way to coincidental. This school is highly performing, even better than most charter schools and as good as the rest. based on past experiences with school closings, moves etc., I would not be surprised if we moved out this May/June and a Charter Moved in after Summer renovations. I question the move all together, but why would we have to move so soon, when we are in the design phase of the building. The plans rhe design etc. has not even been started? On the Construction Projects page, it says the design phase for this school will take place from spring 2025 to Fall of 2025 and possibly longer. That makes no sense for us to move out at the end of this school year. Again, a questionable decision, disrupting this school's success, safety, and continuous progressive work because the building and the environment is exceptional for

teaching and learning. Students want to be here, and parents want to send their children here, because we are the best School.

In the last two months. We have taken in almost 2 dozen new students because parents are choosing to send their children to the best school in Providence.

I feel like the parents have been told, but the awareness that a lot of parents don't understand what's really happening here is an easy way to get this plan thru, without any push back. Which would never happen with parents at Vartan or Nathan Bishop.

Many of the parents who are finding out now, never got a real chance to hear the plan, why its happening and decide if they, as parents, want this or want the best elementary school in Providence to be left off the plan. There are many parents who have students just starting, siblings etc. that are in protest of it but haven't had the resources to say No!

I'm sure Parents and Community of Nathan Bishop and Vartan got their info, and chance to agree or negate the plan. Certain Neighborhood's get what they want, others have things happen because the schools the communities are not aware of the power moves that happen.

I grew up in Providence, attended Windmill St K-8th school. It was a great School, neighborhood school but bused in too. I Attended Classical, Graduated Central High School 1990. I've been a teacher at Asa Messer since 1998. Moved from a too old to costly building to this Building. in 2011 since then this school has been a Learning Community, we feed West Broadway. We are the Best Elementary school in Providence. We have had generations of families attend here because we are that good and close to our families.

Please Change the Plan! Renovate Asa Messer, like new, Knock down Carl Lauro, make that a Nathan Bishop level Middle school or better.

Joe Parrillo
PE/Health/ APE Educator at Asa Messer Elementary!

For One reason, our students, families, teachers and staff deserve to stay in the best Elementary school in Providence Period.

sent same message to every City council member.
And got one response

Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS