

### **Letter from STA Presidents on Neary Building Project:**

The Neary building project has understandably generated a great deal of discussion in our community, and we recognize that the final decision rests with the residents of Southborough. As educators, we are deeply grateful for the support we consistently receive from this community—it is something we never take for granted.

However, we feel compelled to address a recurring sentiment in the conversation: that our teachers are capable of teaching in any condition. While this is often said as a compliment—and it's true that we are resourceful and committed—we believe it's important to clarify that resilience should not be mistaken for ideal working conditions. Our ability to adapt doesn't mean that substandard learning environments are acceptable.

Teachers and students deserve a building with integrity because the learning environment directly affects educational outcomes. A facility that is safe, structurally sound, and well-maintained demonstrates respect for those who spend their days there. It reflects how much a community values its schools and the people within them. When a building is free from hazards and offers proper lighting, ventilation, and space, it fosters focus, dignity, and a strong sense of pride.

Ultimately, investing in a dependable, high-quality educational space is not just about infrastructure—it's about prioritizing the well-being and success of our students and staff. Regardless of the path the town chooses, we are thankful for your continued support and confident that, together, we can create a learning environment with integrity.

Respectfully,

David Finneran and Jennifer Turieo  
Southborough Teachers' Association Presidents