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As voters consider developing a Community Center, the Lincoln School Committee urges everyone to look at the project in its context on the school campus and to support adequate funding for safe and smooth operation of both town and school district programs.

Our first concern must be for safety. This means funding for pedestrian and bicycle pathways and crosswalks, traffic patterns, and adequate, lighted and safe sidewalks, parking and pick-up/drop-off lanes, and for continued scrutiny by Public Safety, Emergency Preparedness, School administrators, and our Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Council as plans are refined.

We also need to ensure the smooth operation of ongoing key programs in the Hartwell area:

- School district central administration offices that serve both Lincoln and Hanscom campuses
- The school district's facilities maintenance workshop
- LEAP, our extended-day activities program
- Magic Garden, a long-time tenant and provider of Lincoln's fulltime, year-round daycare

Over the last decade, the School Committee has budgeted for basic maintenance of the Hartwell campus, but has postponed coming to taxpayers for needed major upgrades as plans for the Community Center developed. We urge voters to support the long-range cost-savings of a comprehensive project for safe, functional and energy efficient programs for our community and schools.