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From: **Winfried Feneberg** <[wfeneberg@kearsarge.org](mailto:wfeneberg@kearsarge.org)>

Date: Fri, Sep 30, 2022 at 2:09 PM

Subject: Re: KRSD - Comet, LLC. Workforce Housing - Planning Board

To: Ken Bartholomew <[kbartholomew@kearsarge.org](mailto:kbartholomew@kearsarge.org)>

CC: Larry Elliott <[lelliott@kearsarge.org](mailto:lelliott@kearsarge.org)>, Ben Cushing <[bcushing@kearsarge.org](mailto:bcushing@kearsarge.org)>

Hi Ken,

Thank you for contacting us about this exciting opportunity for Warner. As you may be aware, I am part of the New London Workforce Housing Commission, and we have been busy looking at zoning regulations and planning board documents to address the grave housing shortage in town and the surrounding areas. This is tedious and not always gloriously rewarding work. Having a proposal in front of the town of Warner is great progress (at least in my view).

Larry did speak with Stacy from STA about the specific bus and transportation questions raised. From STA's standpoint, there is no significant impediment to picking up and dropping off students at the location. One consideration that is always in play refers to the exact position of the entry and exit points to the development as buses cannot stop in the middle of a significant incline. From the attached plans, it does not seem to be an issue.

As far as bus drivers and seat availability is concerns, we do not believe this will constitute an adverse circumstance. We do have a bus driver shortage across the state, but are able to cover all routes at this time. There has been a consolidation of routes resulting in higher utilization of available capacities, but we do not expect this project to cause any additional negative impact. As far as enrollment is concerned, the latest figures from September (we will have the annual official Beginning of Year count on October 1) shows a very stable enrollment picture across the district (2022: 1735 students; 2021: 1738 students). Simonds School had a decline from 172 (in 2021) to currently 155 (2022) students. Thus, while the numbers can always fluctuate, Simonds has sufficient seat availability to accommodate any potential population growth with current available staff resources, even if last year's numbers would re-establish.

I can't come to the meeting on Monday as I have a Housing Commission meeting at the same time here in NL. If you need any other information, please let us know.

Best,  
-W

Winfried Feneberg  
Superintendent of Schools  
Kearsarge Regional School District  
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