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From: **Brian Iler** <brianiler@icloud.com>
Date: Tue, Feb 8, 2022 at 10:08 AM
Subject: Update on solar panels for BMHS
To: Brian Iler <brianiler@icloud.com>

Thanks to the many people who attended the 2 Building Committee meetings this last week. Over 60 community members on Thurs. & 35 on Friday morning! This unprecedented attendance sent a very loud message!

My impressions:

The Building Committee's meetings were a mixed bag for those of us looking for the solar panels' \$170,000/year in savings and commitment to the climate. It WAS refreshing to hear many Committee members pledge their commitment to delivering solar panels for the roof of the school, but DISCOURAGING to hear them wistfully dreaming that an "alternative funding" source would appear like Santa Claus from the sky to pay for it. These panels MUST be paid from the current building budget, or they will NEVER happen. Imagine the reception to another debt exclusion town vote, asking for more money for a project that already cost the town \$200mil +; money needed because of bad cost management.

I was frustrated by the committee's dogged refusal to re-examine Skanska's inflated cost projections, or look to these contractors for cost savings. It feels like the committee is bending over backward to insulate Skanska & Co. from cost over-runs and Covid-related increases. Rather than examine their pricing, or demanding economies from contractors, they instead consider eliminating many important features of the Middle School. It was painful to watch.

Bottom Line: we need to stay involved! We need to insist on more aggressive management of the costs for the final 1/3 of the project so the solar panels can be purchased and installed before project completion! We must insist on more than empty promises of support for solar--the Committee needs to commit to paying for them with their current budget, by stopping the contractor coddling!

- **Send** emails! bhs-bc@belmont-ma.gov ; also send emails directly to committee members you know—many committee members may not receive your email sent to the official committee address
- **Sign** the petition! <https://forms.gle/y53tP5A64wuY9B1Q8> (over 400 signers now! 160 new signers in last 2 weeks alone!)
- **Attend** the next meeting on Friday morning! <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81370775953> (see attached agenda)
- **Forward** this email to other concerned Belmont residents

Let me know what you think. Also let me now if you'd prefer not to receive these emails.

Brian

Brian Iler
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