

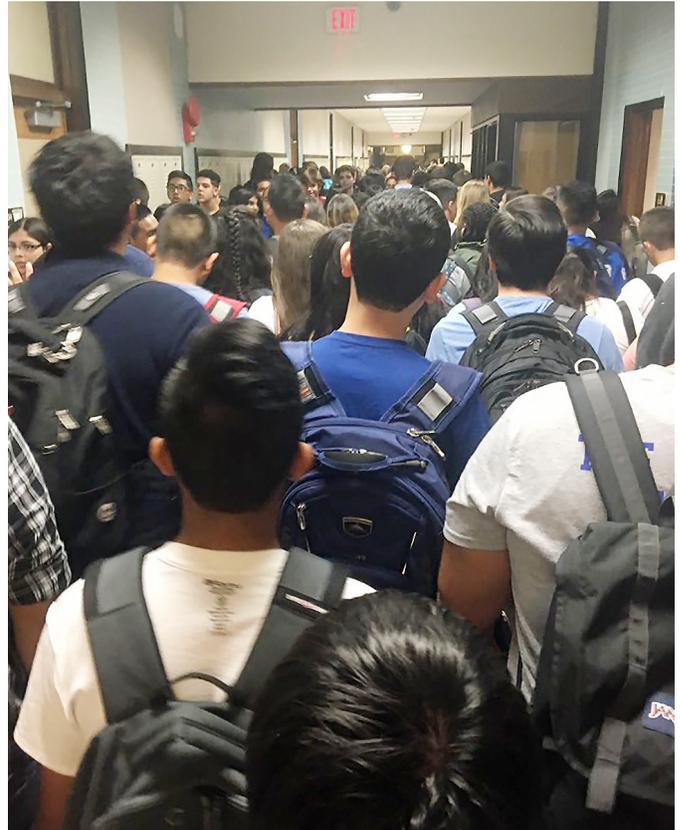
Letter to the Editor: Bond is in best interest of all Port Chester

By Carlos Hernandez

Thursday, March 16, 2017 4:43 AM

I am writing this letter to express my strong support of the bond in the Port Chester School District. I believe this bond is in the best interest of the entirety of Port Chester. I'd like to outline many social and economic benefits that this community will receive that it needs and deserves.

I am a junior at Port Chester High School and I have tons of Ram pride. This town is the best thing that has ever happened to my family because of the opportunities it has given me. The approximate population of the high school this year is 1,500 which is about 50% above the set population cap. Next year the population is projected to be approximately 1700. Some of my classes have almost 30 students with one teacher, which makes it difficult to focus. Studies have shown that "Students behave better and pay more attention in smaller groups..." (Seattle Times)



Crowded hallway at Port Chester High School.

Additionally, the halls are too crowded to get from one class to another. I have lunch on one side of the school and my next class on the other, which causes me to be late even when I make the effort to leave the cafeteria as soon as the bell rings. As a result, I never go to the cafeteria for lunch, but rather stay in the library just to not be late. This makes me hungry during the day and I can't focus on class because all I can think about is going home to eat.

The grass field in the fall gets destroyed by a dual soccer and football season, which makes for difficult playing conditions. We have too many athletes with too much potential to not have the state-of-the-art facilities we proud Rams deserve.

From an economic view, this bond is essential because of the increase in value of our residents' homes. It is more of an investment in our community as a whole. The misconception is that this investment doesn't do much or that what it does isn't significant. It is proven that in real estate a huge factor is the quality of the local school district. Gabrielle Ware, a student studying urban

economics at Duke University, argues that, "...buyers give considerable attention to public school quality and researchers have become increasingly interested in which school attributes are most valuable to home buyers, and hence, influence house prices most strongly."

I hope this letter has been beneficial in expressing why I strongly support the bond. It is time that the people of Port Chester invest in our schools, our students, our future. I hope this letter will help benefit the generations of Port Chester to come and continue to produce leaders of character with opportunity to influence change in their community and world. Thank you very much for your time.

Carlos Hernandez