

Dear Mayor Lee & High Bridge Council Members:

The mission of the school district is to provide a strong educational foundation and to establish a platform for students to participate in and serve the community. Annually, the Board of Education sets goals to support the District in how it serves High Bridge. One of the Board goals is to ensure that the superintendent has the resources necessary to enhance and/or put into place practices and/or programs that promote the social, mental, and emotional health of all District stakeholders.

In response to what is happening regarding cannabis on a municipal level, the Board formally states its disagreement with the decision that ultimately allows for cannabis-related businesses in town. The Board maintains that this decision contradicts the health and wellness curricula being taught, the social emotional wellness initiatives that are integrated daily in the classrooms, and the feedback received by District families.

Since the Board can only voice our displeasure with the decision already made, please keep the following points in mind as discussions on the ordinances around cannabis businesses take place. The High Bridge School District urges Council to:

- Follow the federal legal requirements with regard to drug-free school zones, requiring a buffer of 1,000 feet for any cannabis dispensaries/cultivation sites situated near schools. It is acknowledged that state law allows a legal dispensary to be located closer than 1,000 feet to a school, but it is our hope that the town will voluntarily adhere to the federal drug-free school zone buffer.
- Commit to strictly enforcing the law prohibiting sales to minors.
- Consider directing a portion of tax revenues from cannabis-related businesses to the High Bridge Public Schools to cover costs associated with comprehensive public and school-based education on cannabis use and its effects on health and wellness.

Thank-you for your attention to the Board's concerns.

Sincerely,

Cindy Sharkey

President, High Bridge Board of Education