

SCARSDALE MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

February 7, 2016

Ms. Leila Shames Maude
President, Board of Education
Scarsdale Public Schools
2 Brewster Road
Scarsdale, NY 10583

Mr. Jonathan Mark
Mayor, Board of Trustees
Village of Scarsdale
1001 Post Road
Scarsdale, NY 10583

To the Members of the Scarsdale Board of Education and the Members of the Scarsdale Village Board of Trustees,

The Scarsdale Middle School PTA Executive Committee is writing in response to the Board of Education's request for feedback concerning the continued school district funding of the Center@862 (formerly Scarsdale Teen Center), an independent 501(c)(3) organization that operates an updated lounge space with a stated mission of providing teens with "an environment where they can interact with their peers and engage in safe, recreational, social, and educational programs and activities." Conceptually, we are proponents of the existence of a community teen center to provide a supportive, safe, and drug and alcohol-free supervised environment for our community's school-aged children. We view this as an endeavor that is more aligned and fitting within the purview of our Village Government's Parks, Recreation, and Conservation Department to sort out funding (private and public), programming, and management. Because the Center@862, as it currently exists, is neither within the school district's jurisdiction nor part of the district's core programming, we believe that it is not an appropriate line item in the school district's budget. However, we encourage the Village Board of Trustees to explore how to best meet the present and future needs of those currently utilizing the Center@862, including the community's teenagers as well as the several community-based organizations who also make use of that facility.

Sincerely,

The 2015-16 SMS PTA Executive Committee:

Diane Baylor, President
Sharon Higgins, President-Elect
Beth Cukier, Secretary
Christine Peckett, Treasurer
Elizabeth Hoexter, Director of Membership and Student Directory
Eva Romas Wilson, Director of Programming
Anita Mann, Director of School Events & Initiatives