

October 16, 2023

A Shaker facilities plan, Issue 13, to repair and rebuild century old buildings sounds good on the surface but is complicated. This task requires excellent implementation, communication, and importantly, community trust. This is a tricky balance, so imagine what it must be like for leadership that lost the trust of many. With missing facts and little attention to equity, it's understandable that they are counting on Issue 13 passing based on loyalty from a city known for supporting its schools.

An administration willing to spend \$302.9 million and leave Moreland, its most marginalized, predominantly black neighborhood, behind is unacceptable. Students there have been bussed nearly four decades, to the school located furthest from homes. There is no supporting data that this decision has a positive impact, yet families are left with inequitable shortcomings and disadvantages. Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored. Shaker asks residents to continue to "not see" its most vulnerable neighborhood and to accept missing pertinent information about the issue. Passing Issue 13 will solidify Moreland as having lesser value. We can shelter under the word equity but when this city's privilege chooses to intersect with its oppressed, that is when real change will occur.

Shaker African American Mothers Support
[SAMS]