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August 11, 2023

Dr. William L. Wright, Jr., Superintendent  
Sumter School Board of Trustees  
Sumter School District  
1345 Wilson Hall Road  
Sumter, SC 29150

Dear Mr. Wright and Trustees:

First, I want to give honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is because of His mercy and my faith, that I am able to write this letter. This letter is very important and emotional because it is about the children who attend public school at R.E. Davis College Preparatory Academy. As we know, Jesus loves the children.

I would like to reference the front-page article of the Sumter ITEM titled, "Sumter school board finance chair wants district to look at alternatives," dated Tuesday, July 25, 2023. There was a discussion on the topic of older bond projects. Finance Committee Chairman Daniel Palumbo, District 1, noted the current capital projects report shows about \$400,000 still devoted to projects from 2018 and 2019. Fellow trustee Shery White, District 7, also raised this issue in discussion.

Sumter School District (SSD) Chief Financial Officer Shatika Spearman said it would need to be the decision of District administration and the board about weather older projects need to be removed and money moved to current, available projects.

Palumbo referred to the process as similar to "dead project" and a need for "spring cleaning." Before the closing of Mayewood Middle School, SSD Interim Superintendent Debbie Ham held community forums in County Council District 7. She said she wanted to get comments from the residents on the "proposed" closing of Mayewood Middle School. One meeting was held in the Eastern Community Center in 2017. All residents (over 50), including myself, strongly opposed closing the school. The residents questioned why close the school, when it was one of the best, student performance, in the school district.

In spite of the objection of parents and students, during the 2018-2019 school year, Mayewood Middle School students were sent to R.E. Davis Elementary School to create the new R.E. Davis