
What’s up with the
SHRSD Referendum now?



“I am hearing rumors of some kind of ethics complaint against the BOE and that West Amwell is challenging the referendum outcome.”

I don’t get it. What the heck is going on?

We didn’t either, at first. So we created this presentation to help regular people understand what is happening and why it is important.

We’ll spell it out to you from…

A-Z

It all starts with this. Over the years **Save LPS packed the BOE** and achieved a majority, and then **promptly killed** every referendum option that involved getting rid of a school in Lambertville.

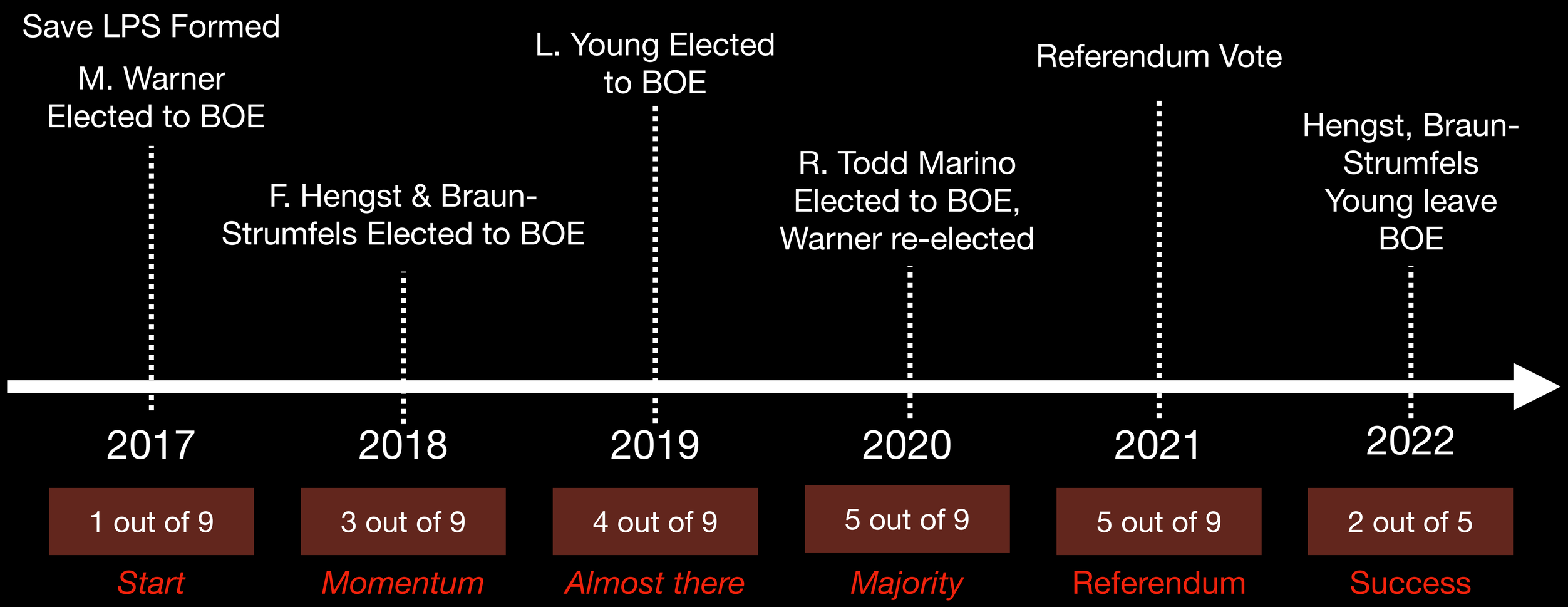
So the referendum plan had to start with the premise that LPS would be saved.

We got a district-wide P**reK-4 school in a flood zone** because it is all that would fit on the site while meeting NJ Dept. of Ed regulations. They knew that a district-wide 5-6 school at South would be absurd, so they **had to pull the middle schoolers out** of South and build a **monster middle school** for the 2nd smallest district in the State of NJ.



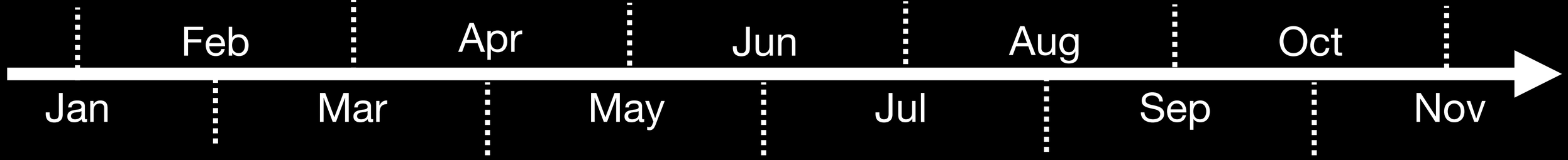


SAVE LPS TIMELINE



SaveLPS packed the BOE, blocked a district school at South, forced the vote to approve, then 3 of them left!

Referendum Timeline



M. Warner Threat
LPS can't be renovated
Property Values
Must Stay Neutral

WAS Renovation
Board must be United
Negotiating on LPS
M. Warner Backlash
Beaumont Offer

Survey Purpose Survey
Beaumont added to KCs
Save LPS Prevails
Negotiating on LPS Reno

Survey Outcome
Targeting "Unsures"
Assembling KCs
PR Timeline

L. Young Resigns
Rename LPS
Improve Board PR
Removing negative Info

SC Talking Points
Community Meetings
Key Communicators Meet
Gain Muni Support
Exaggerate Failed Referendum
Analyze Voter Data

2 More Resignations
Deceiving Committees
Spinning Numbers
Union Objections
Video #1

Community Group
KCs Strategizing
Voter Canvassing
Vote Yes Lawn Signs
"Get Out the Vote"
"Inundate the Public"
Suppress Negatives
Video #1 Released
Presentation Released

Lawn Sign Campaign
Convert to "Yes" Votes
Fight West Amwell
Push Letters to Editor
Create Many More Videos
Threats to reduce classes
Formal Marketing Plan
Letter to Students
West Amwell Concerns

SI Distributing Signs
Sign Panic
BOE Running Canvassing
"Referendum Campaigning"
Video #3
Letter Collaboration
Attacking West Amwell
BOE Video Panic
Ethics Complaint
Class III Officers QPQ
Financial Supported Hidden

Voters Disenfranchised
Police Directions (Parking)
BOE Legal on Ethics
Alternatives Discussions

KEY
"KCs"=Key Communicators
"SC"=School & Community Committee
"SI"=Superintendent
"QPQ"=Quid Pro Quo

The Whole Story

The previous slide was a summary of the major events that happened during the referendum. But you may want to know the full story with all its nuance. For those interested, a narrative of what really happened during referendum process is available at the following UTL.

https://tinyurl.com/shrsd-ref-narrative

What's being Done?

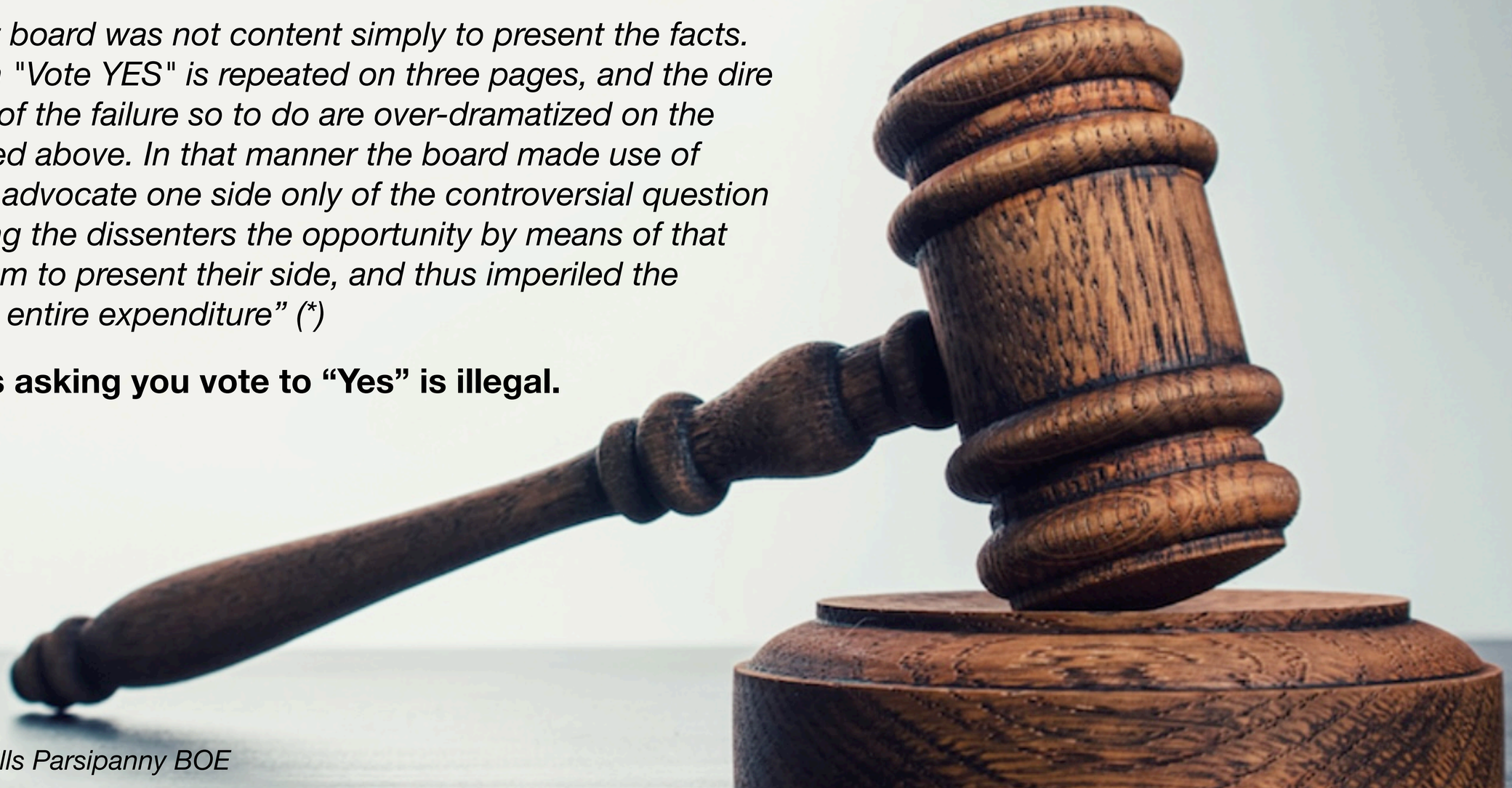
- **West Amwell Township fighting results**
  - **Goal: Reverse outcome of referendum**
  - BOE stayed from any action on referendum
  - Recount Vote
  - Will contest election next
    - BOE acted improperly
    - Construction disenfranchised voters
- **Ethics Complaint**
  - **Goal: reprimand or removal of BOE members**
  - Will take 1-2 years to conclude
  - Get new BOE members

FOUNDATIONAL ARGUMENT AGAINST BOE

70 years ago a district was found guilty of violating election law. Their crime? Advocating for a referendum.

“The defendant board was not content simply to present the facts. The exhortation "Vote YES" is repeated on three pages, and the dire consequences of the failure so to do are over-dramatized on the page reproduced above. In that manner the board made use of public funds to advocate one side only of the controversial question without affording the dissenters the opportunity by means of that financed medium to present their side, and thus imperiled the propriety of the entire expenditure” (*)

School boards asking you vote to “Yes” is illegal.



** Citizens v. Troy-Hills Parsipanny BOE*

ETHICS



So that covered election law. What does that have to do with ethics?

The NJ School Ethics Act has a list of ethical regulations that Board of Ed members *must* follow as individuals. If they violate them, they can be punished, up to and including removal. There are three relevant cases here:

Section (e) - Board member won't personally do anything to compromise the Board.

Section (f) - Board member won't surrender himself to special interests.

Section (g) - Board member will be truthful about all school matters.

The complaint basically argues that not only were the BOE actions during the election illegal, they also were unethical.

What's the difference? Election law only impacts the district. **Ethics law makes the BOE members individually accountable.**

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WHO CARES?

- You should! The electorate was improperly manipulated *using your tax dollars*.
- Facilities have sucked the oxygen out of the district. The administration is too distracted to care about improving educational outcomes.
- Facilities have little bearing on the quality of education our kids receive. We have absymal math and science scores and buildings won't fix it.
- We can overturn this result and block the referendum from going forward
- Everyone who voted "No" paid for all the marketing out of their own pocket.
- The Board of Ed needs to be held accountable for their actions.
- Spending in the future will likely only increase.

This ain't a "done deal". We heard that nonsense with PennEast, and we beat them. We will beat this too.



WE NEED HELP!

- Courts and State Agencies **gauge public response** in election cases
- The **more citizens** that are **angry** about an election outcome, the **more action** they will be willing to take
- The West Amwell government **needs your support in contesting the election**
- We need residents of all three towns to **speak out** against how the referendum was conducted and call for discipline of the board
  - **Speak at BOE meetings** or send an email at boe@shrsd.org
  - **Speak a municipal** government meetings
- We need **help to fund** the legal challenges