

South Windsor Public Schools
Proposed Elementary Schools Facility Plan
Ten-Year Timeline



Presented at the October 15, 2013 Board of Education Meeting

Anticipated Questions

Where I can I find more information?

This document is part of a larger report submitted to the Board of Education from the Superintendent of Schools. The full report can be found on the district's website at www.southwindsorschools.org. You will also find a report from Friar Associates who conducted a feasibility study in support of developing a master plan.

How does this approach differ from previous efforts?

While the concept of closing Wapping School and moving from five to four schools was integral to the previous plan outlined in the 2008 referendum, there are some key differences in this proposed approach. Chief among them is the concept of beginning with only one school. Community feedback suggests that the previous effort to fund all four schools at once was a major reason the plan was rejected.

Another key difference is the Board of Education's direction to the Superintendent of Schools to bring forth one recommendation for its consideration. We have heard from many stakeholders that there were simply too many options on the table during the last referendum which led to confusion amongst the voters. People seem pleased that the administration has been asked to bring forth its best thinking after consultation with experts in the school construction field and local stakeholders.

Another difference lies in the clarity with which the potential win-wins are outlined. We are told that these opportunities were alluded to last time, but never revealed with clarity for the community to consider.

While the needs of our aging facilities were presented in the previous referenda, it has been suggested that even more should be done to communicate the deficiencies of our current facilities. As the plan moves forward, we are confident we can better capture and report our current facility issues.

The call for a comprehensive elementary facility plan is part of the widely publicized 2011-2014 Strategic Plan adopted in September 2011. This document gave clear notice to the community and its leaders that the Board would be directing the administration to work on a plan.

Since the last referendum, our declining enrollment is more evident and the case for closing a school is clear. We are hopeful that there will be greater acceptance among those who were averse to the closing of Wapping Elementary School during the last referendum. Based on current enrollment data, we believe that members of the Wapping community will better understand the mounting evidence that it is no longer efficient to operate five schools. There is also compelling rationale for selecting Wapping School as the school to be closed.

The last plan called for new offices for the central office administration. We have proposed a plan that excludes this expense. We believe the focus needs to be on our students and the schools in which they learn. The administrative offices are not a priority at this time.

The tragic events of Newtown have changed the conversation regarding new school construction. Some school security features will now be considered non-negotiable. Our conversations around school design will differ from previous years due to the heartbreaking realities that confront us.

Why start with only one school?

The last referendum called for the community to commit to funding all four schools at once. Community feedback suggests that this was simply too significant an expenditure and that a staggered approach would be more likely to be embraced by the community. There are practical advantages as well. The construction of even a single school will require significant time on the part of BOE staff. We must consider our capacity to effectively oversee the project, partner with the Public Building Commission, and collaborate with the architects and the construction company so that we meet all of our responsibilities. A staggered approach allows us to apply lessons learned to future projects, reassess

enrollment projections along the way, and ensure that future maintenance schedules are also somewhat staggered. We also believe that a successful first project will serve to inform community members as they consider future school projects. The public will have its say on three separate occasions.

Why was Orchard Hill chosen as the first site?

Not all of our sites contain the acreage or topography to allow for new construction to occur on site while the original building remains standing. Philip R. Smith and Pleasant Valley do not have sites that are conducive to parallel construction. Eli Terry's site allows for a second building to be constructed while the original building is occupied. Eventually the original Eli Terry building would need to be razed to make room for replacement ball fields. The Orchard Hill site not only allows for a new building to coexist with the original building, but also has the space for ball fields without having to raze the original building. This dynamic allows the original Orchard Hill School to serve as swing space. Another benefit is Orchard Hill's proximity to Timothy Edward Middle School (TEMS), which may be of some assistance to families who have older children at TEMS and younger children attending the former Orchard Hill while their school is being renovated.

What if our student population increases over time?

Architects always consider future additions in school design. It is important to note that even if we were certain there would be a significant population growth in twenty years, the State's reimbursement formula is predicated on building to a capacity that does not exceed the projected enrollment within an eight-year time frame.

Who decides the future use of Wapping School?

Once the Board of Education turns a school over to the town, it will be the Town Council that decides if a building is razed or repurposed for other community needs.

What do new schools offer that our existing schools do not?

Among other factors, new schools offer ADA compliance, modern technology, enhanced school security features, more efficient utilities, environmentally conscious design, improved indoor air quality, instructional spaces designed for current instructional strategies, safer traffic pattern designs, and climate-controlled spaces.

If I vote yes in the Spring 2014 referendum, does that commit tax payers to the entire ten-year plan?

No. By utilizing a staggered referenda approach we allow the community to have its say at each stage of the ten-year plan. As proposed, the community would vote to fund the construction of one new school as part of Phase One. It is our hope that a successful first school will inspire the community to maintain fidelity to the long-range plan, but initially the financial commitment is to begin with one school. We have, however, outlined the long-range plan and the estimates for future costs, ensuring that the community is well informed about the comprehensive plan in advance of voting on the first phase of a multi-phase plan.

Answers to the additional anticipated questions below can be found within the Superintendent's October 15 Report to the Board of Education. This document is posted on the district website.

How does the community at large benefit from new schools?

What is the difference between renovate-like-new and new construction?

How are school construction projects funded?

What is our reimbursement rate?

Will I know in advance of voting in the Spring 2014 referendum what the impact Phase One will have on my taxes?

About this Document

This document outlines a plan for addressing our aging elementary schools and includes a timeline for consolidating from five elementary schools to four. Without question, changes in enrollment, changes in reimbursement rates, changes in the economy, and changes in education legislation could alter the proposed plan and/or timeline. While variables may arise, we believe a transparent and detailed proposal of a ten-year scenario, based on the information available to us today, allows for a conceptual long-range plan for the community to consider.



Central Office Administration






Kate Carter, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Daniel S. Hansen
Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction

Richard A. Cormier
Assistant Superintendent, Personnel and Administration

Chris Chemerka
Director, Finance and Operations

South Windsor Public Schools
1737 Main Street
South Windsor, CT 06074
Phone: (860) 291-1200; Fax: (860) 291-1291
Website: www.southwindsorschools.org

Academic Year (Sept 1–Aug 30)	2013-2014 REFERENDUM YEAR	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017 REFERENDUM YEAR	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020 REFERENDUM YEAR	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
 Orchard Hill Elementary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st year of full day kindergarten Development of Ed Specs Anticipated Spring referendum to construct a new elementary school on the Orchard Hill site ED 049 due June 30, 2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State review of ED 049 Design phase of new school Grant approval June 2015 Construction begins in August 2015 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction continues Orchard Hill students remain in original Orchard Hill school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orchard Hill students remain in original Orchard Hill School Construction completed in late Winter 2017 	<p>OPEN NEW ORCHARD HILL SCHOOL!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome 125 redistricted Wapping students Welcome 70 Pre-K students from Eli Terry Original Orchard Hill building becomes "swing space" school 						Original Orchard Hill School no longer needed for swing space
	Current Enrollment: 387	Projected Enrollment: 379	Projected Enrollment: 378	Projected Enrollment: 373	Projected Enrollment: 564 [369 (OH); 70 (Pre-K); 125 (WES)]	Projected Enrollment: 554	Projected Enrollment: 540	Projected Enrollment: 524	Projected Enrollment: 511	Projected Enrollment: 509	Projected Enrollment: 494
 Wapping Elementary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st year of full day kindergarten Overcrowded conditions Forced to construct temporary music classroom in cafeteria 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin planning redistricting for students and staff Transportation analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop new bus routes for redistricted students Plan for K-5 staffing assignments in response to redistricting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turn Wapping School over to town Wapping students redistricted to surrounding schools (343 projected enrollment) 						
	Current Enrollment: 302	Projected Enrollment: 317	Projected Enrollment: 320	Projected Enrollment: 328							
 Eli Terry Elementary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st year of full day kindergarten Overcrowded conditions Forced to implement Art-on-a-Cart Pre-K Program consumes 6 classroom spaces 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin planning for Pre-K population to move to new Orchard Hill School in Fall 2017 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Ed Specs Spring referendum to build new Eli Terry School ED 049 due June 30, 2017 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State review of ED 049 Design phase of new school Grant approval June 2018 70 Pre-K students transition to new Orchard Hill School Construction begins August 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction continues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction completed in late Winter 2020 Demolish old Eli Terry building Summer 2020 to construct new ball fields 	<p>OPEN NEW ELI TERRY SCHOOL!</p>			
	Current Enrollment: 441 [including 70 Pre-K]	Projected Enrollment: 458	Projected Enrollment: 478	Projected Enrollment: 485	Projected Enrollment: 428	Projected Enrollment: 442	Projected Enrollment: 428	Projected Enrollment: 413	Projected Enrollment: 400	Projected Enrollment: 399	Projected Enrollment: 384
 Philip R. Smith Elementary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st year of full day kindergarten Closure of 3 portable classrooms due to unsafe conditions 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Ed Specs Spring referendum to "renovate like new" existing PRS School ED 049 due June 30, 2017 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State review of ED 049 Design phase of renovated school Grant approval June 2018 Welcome 109 redistricted Wapping students to PRS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renovations begin in Fall 2018 PRS students attend swing space school (original Orchard Hill bldg) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRS students continue to attend swing space school Renovations completed Spring 2020 	<p>OPEN NEWLY RENOVATED PHILIP R. SMITH SCHOOL!</p>			
	Current Enrollment: 352	Projected Enrollment: 337	Projected Enrollment: 327	Projected Enrollment: 296	Projected Enrollment: 388 [279 (PRS); 109 (WES)]	Projected Enrollment: 386	Projected Enrollment: 376	Projected Enrollment: 366	Projected Enrollment: 353	Projected Enrollment: 353	Projected Enrollment: 340
 Pleasant Valley Elementary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st year of full day kindergarten Install new kitchen floor/ asbestos removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roof replacement 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome 109 redistricted Wapping students to Pleasant Valley School 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Ed Specs Spring referendum to "renovate like new" existing Pleasant Valley School ED 049 due June 30, 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State review of ED 049 Design phase of renovated school Grant approval June 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renovations begin in Fall 2021 Pleasant Valley students attend swing space school (original Orchard Hill bldg) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pleasant Valley students attend swing space school Renovations completed Spring 2023 	<p>OPEN NEWLY RENOVATED PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL!</p>
	Current Enrollment: 347	Projected Enrollment: 336	Projected Enrollment: 335	Projected Enrollment: 295	Projected Enrollment: 408 [299 (PV); 109 (WES)]	Projected Enrollment: 407	Projected Enrollment: 396	Projected Enrollment: 383	Projected Enrollment: 370	Projected Enrollment: 370	Projected Enrollment: 356

Current enrollment as of 10/1/13

Phase One Phase Two Phase Three