

RUMNEY SCHOOL BOARD CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT

Rumney School District Taxpayers have supported extensive Russell Elementary School facility improvements over the years, demonstrating respect and responsibility for our well-maintained building and grounds. The building is a 28,000 square foot school facility constructed in several phases beginning in 1957.

- 1957 2-story masonry and steel frame. The lower level is partially below grade.
- 1974 1 story pre engineered metal building. The floor slab is the building main level and is approximately 3.5' above the 1957 lower level.
- 1993 1 story pre engineered metal building housing the gym.
- 1997 1 story metal stud exterior wall system and wood trussed roof system.
- 2013 lobby, gym, and office renovations.

In spite of these generous improvements, our facility has well documented building code issues in the 1957 building including: covering, bracing, or replacing the emergency exterior exit stairs; replacing unevenly constructed interior stairs; adding a sprinkler system; and, adding fire rated walls and doors in several areas. Further, access to the 1957 wing is not ADA Code compliant; the ramp to the lower level is steep and narrow ending at a 12-foot cement block wall, and there is no handicapped access to the second floor. Structurally, the 1957 building has cement block walls with a face brick offering an R-6 insulation factor and the roof has an R-2 insulation factor. The oil-fired boilers are beyond their life cycle, are requiring numerous repairs, and are in need of replacement. Fire sprinklers would be required throughout the facility and would need to be extended into pre-existing sections of the school.

Rumney School Board has transparently studied building design options.

- Public Hearing Regarding Heating Plant Options Fall 2012.
- December of 2012 Rumney School District authorized two studies, School Facilities Studies and a review of existing mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and analysis of potential upgrades to those systems.
- Public Hearing Regarding Heating Plant Options January 2, 2013.
- Charles P. Buckley, PE completed a Mechanical Design Study for the Russell Elementary School on June 25, 2013.
- Stewart Associates Architects LLC completed a Facilities Study for Russell Elementary School on September 20, 2013. This study consists of a review of the building for conformance with current building codes and the New Hampshire Department of Education program standards, along with recommended upgrades and two specific design upgrade scenarios.
- Public Hearing Regarding Heating Plant Options October 24, 2012 regarding heating plant options generated by Request for Proposals during the previous year. The RFPs were looking at wood chip or pellet options.
- September 25, 2013 Rumney School Board Informational Session to examine alternative building renovations that comply with State and Federal regulations for Public Schools.

In April 2014, the Rumney School Board authorized the formation of a Capital Improvement Committee.

Members of the Capital Improvement Committee include:

Nick Burt, School Board (Alternate)
Dave Coursey, Fire Chief
John Dow, Taxpayer
Brad Eaton, Taxpayer
Jon Francis, Facilities Director, SAU 48
Dan Kimble, Selectman
Brian Pauquette, Taxpayer
Brian Smoker, School Board, Vice Chair
Jerry Thibodeau, School Board
Jonann Torsey, Principal
Steve Webber, Taxpayer

The School Board charged the committee with the following work:

1. To determine the practicality/viability of renovating the '57 building.
2. The Committee found the physical plant and life safety code issues within the '57 building to be beyond the scope of practical renovation.
3. To propose the footprint, location, and design (from mechanicals through finishes) of the new wing.
4. To research the projected budget for the proposed addition and renovation of Russell Elementary School including demolition of the '57 building, construction of a new wing to replace the '57 building, and renovations to the existing building to comply with State and Federal regulations for Public Schools. An extensive bidding process in the fall of 2015 resulted in a projected budget of nearly \$5.5 million.

The committee met with the State of NH DOE Bureau of School Safety & Facility Management and sent letters to Senator Forrester and Representative Ladd (winter 2015) expressing the earnest need for funding support for capital improvement projects in our small rural town. The committee prepared to complete a preliminary application request for building aid during the spring and summer of 2015, when the state placed a moratorium on building aid.

The School Board appreciates that a project of this magnitude is beyond local funding capacity. Responsibly, the School District is continuing to set aside money anticipating future state and federal assistance to replace our inadequate half century-old construction. The School Board has appropriated \$577,575 toward capital improvement to date and recommends Article 3: Add to Building Capital Reserve Fund to raise and appropriate \$150,000 to the School District Facilities Capital Reserve Fund. The effect on the tax rate for this article is \$0.87. We value your continued support placing priority on life safety systems within our Russell Elementary School building.