

SMS Board Presents: Proposed Renovation At a Glance

How much will it cost?

If passed, the bond will be “not to exceed \$12 million,” which includes a 15% contingency for unforeseen issues. The impact to your tax bill for an average home valued at \$834,000 will be roughly \$315/ year. This assumes a 25 year bond at 4%.

Why is a renovation needed now?

Many systems have exceeded their life expectancy, parts of the building are out of code compliance, and academic needs have shifted dramatically over the past 30 years so more spaces are needed to provide students a proper education. Addressing needs at the same time will provide significant savings over fixing them one at a time, and will give the town a school that we will all benefit from.

What will be covered in the renovation?

The building renovation plans have developed to address many urgent needs including replacing the boilers, updating HVAC, enlarging the cafeteria and nurses area, reconfiguring the front office area to improve security, a new roof, adding additional educational space, sprinkling the school, bringing the school up to code and ADA code, replacing lights to LEDs and more (!). The Preconstruction Manager for Careno Construction is a Stratham resident with a child who went to SMS. The upgrades will provide significant energy and cost savings. More details are available on the SMS website.

What about matriculation?

An enrollment study was conducted in 2024 that shows that in five scenarios, enrollment will stay steady or will increase over time. Even if enrollment slightly decreases, academic requirements have changed such that schools legally must provide more services to students than they have had to in the past. Additionally, students' learning habits have changed since smart phones have become ubiquitous, requiring more attention from teachers and more interventions.

How can I learn more?

Come to one of the six presentations with the construction company Careno and members of the Building Subcommittee on the following dates:

Wednesday, January 29th 6pm, Town Hall

Monday, February 3rd 6pm, Zoom (link on SMS website)

Saturday, February 15th 9am, SMS Cafeteria, free childcare provided

Wednesday, February 19th 11am, Town Hall

Monday, February 24th 7pm, Fire Department

Wednesday, February 26th 10am, Zoom (link on SMS website)

When is the vote?

March 4th at 6pm at the SMS cafeteria. Thank you for voting!