



East Lyme Board of Education Community Forum



Selecting a Path Forward for Our Elementary School Facilities

**ELBOE Meeting
June 24, 2013**



East Lyme Public Schools



Mission Statement

East Lyme Public Schools will inspire, engage, and educate each student to become a contributing citizen and responsible, independent, and critical thinker.

A community responsibility and tradition.....

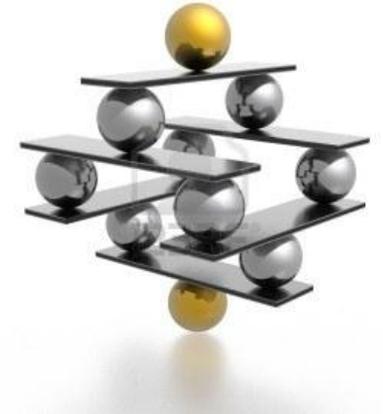
- Educational excellence
- Fantastic teaching staff
- Parent engagement
- Financial support from the community

.....of doing the very best for our kids!

The East Lyme Community has a tradition of making thoughtful and well-balanced decisions for long-term sustainment of educational excellence.....

.....The East Lyme Board of Education has always provided leadership in addressing concerns and issues and enabling the community to make informed decisions.

- High School Block Scheduling
- After-School Programs at Elementary Schools
- Cooperative Agreement with Salem
- High School Addition and Renovation
- Addition of High School Swimming Pool
- New Middle School Construction
- Middle School Kivas
- Relocation of Lillie B. Haynes to previous MS
- Enhancement of HS Educational Programming
- HS Solar Panels
- Long-Range Strategic Plan for District
- In-sourcing Special Education
- Coastal Connections
- New Athletic Complex located at the HS
- **All-Day Kindergarten for all Elementary Schools!**



Change is never easy.....

- There are always different paths forward
- Deciding the path is difficult because everyone sees direction through their own unique perspective
- Ultimately, a path has to be selected



Democracy feels slow and cumbersome

- Constant communication and open dialogue takes time
- Everyone has to process the information in their own unique way
- New ideas must be heard and considered
- Consensus building is key

.....and yet, you wouldn't want to do it any other way.

The role of the BOE is to provide leadership in addressing concerns and issues with delivering the best education for the children of East Lyme.....



This is an absolutely critical responsibility that we have been elected by our community to do.

The BOE must be diligent and thoughtful in doing what is best for **the entire district.**

**Our road map is
**The East Lyme Public Schools/Long Range Plan for 2011
-2014.****

One of our destinations in the Road Map.....

Goal #3: East Lyme Public Schools will provide safe and healthy environments in which each student will gain the knowledge to sustain and promote a healthy lifestyle.

Objective #1: All East Lyme Public Schools' facilities and grounds will be safe, clean and up-to-date.

Strategy 1.a. Address all individual strategies within the scope of a long-range facilities improvement plan for the ELPS.

.....so what have we done and where are we going.....

Back in 2010.....

"Our 5 year capital improvement plan was filled with building repairs and upgrades for our elementary schools. We also noted that an assessment of all the EL School Buildings had not been done for over 20 years."

Action: Kaestle Boos conducted a study of our buildings and prioritized deficiencies and long-term health the structures.

Study Conclusions (2011): The three elementary schools have the greatest need for renovation and upgrading.

	Estimated Cost*
Flanders	\$6,046,750
Niantic	\$4,073,750
Lillie B.	<u>\$7,693,250</u>
	\$17,813,750

*Not reimbursable from State



So in the fall of 2011.....



“**Nearly \$18 million of repairs!!!!** What other options should we consider before embarking on such an extensive “repair” program. Also, what will be our enrollments be in the future? How much space do we need? What kind of space do we need? **What’s best for our kids?”**

Action: An ELPS Facilities **Vision** Committee was charged to generate a vision and a plan to address the needs of the elementary schools. Vision rationale should include:

- Educational benefits
- Impact on annual general fund budget
- Maintenance benefits
- Impact of students and families



From October 2011 to April 2013.....

"ELPS Facilities Vision Committee did their task!

With support from Kaestle Boos Associates and O&G Industries, they conducted a series of steps: defining the problem statement; idea generation; engaging inputs from parents, students, teachers, and community members; and synthesizing a vision with input from the Town 20-20 Planning Committee."



Output: ELP Facilities Vision Task Force **Findings Report**
to EL Board of Education, April 23, 2013

- Process
- Data Survey
 - Findings from Teachers and Student
 - Work Group Feedbacks
 - Pro/Con Option Assessments
- Recommendations and Further Considerations

Interpretation of Committee's Findings.....

Rankings by 22 Members

#1

#2

#3

Option 1
Discontinue use of NCS and
renovate as new Flanders and
Haynes

13
(59%)

8

1

Versus

Option 2
Discontinue use of Flanders,
Haynes and NCS and build a
new elementary school
complex

6
(27%)

10

6

Versus

Option 3
Renovate as new Flanders,
Haynes and NCS

3

4

15
(68%)



So it's June 2013 and it's time for us to define the path forward.....

Do nothing

\$17,813,750 in repairs of three schools



**Renovate as
New or Build
New or
Combination**

***Do best thing for
our kids and our
community***



“Do nothing”

Process Steps: Same as the task.

Pros: Easy

Con: Creates a bigger problem to solve in the near future.

BOE: Unacceptable



“\$17,813,750*in repairs of three schools”

*2011 Projection

Process Steps:

Prepare a proposal for the 5 years capital plan and obtain annual approval for capital repair investments from the Town.

Time for implementation: 3 to 5 years or longer depending on rate of funding.

Pro: Begin to address some repairs quickly; minimal change

Con: Defers bigger issues of aging facilities and does not provide “2013” contemporary facilities.

No reimbursement from the State!

BOE: If we don’t do something else, we will *have* to go down this path.



“Renovate as New or Build New or Combination”

Process Steps: Four Phases

Phase 1 (6 months)

Hire a design firm and define the Educational Specifications for K-4 Grades in parallel with developing boundary conditions for design elements. Hold multiple public forums for communication and feedback. Work with Town to develop best site and location logistics consistent with Town Vision.

Phase 2 (6 to 12 months depending on # of design options)

Design the facility(s), select the final design and cost estimates, develop detail rationale for community, obtain Town approval for bonding and file for State Reimbursement by June 30th to obtain funding on June 30th plus one year

Phase 3 (8-12 months)

Develop building specifications for construction bidding. Go out to bid. Develop logistics for construction and holding school.

Phase 4 (18 to 24 months depending on logistics)

Build facility (s).



Phase I detail.....

What are Ed. Specs.?

- General building designs and adjacencies
- Air Handling System
- Instructional Space
- Acoustic Design
- Multi-media Design
- Classroom configurations and structural components
- Support room configurations and adjacencies to other rooms
- Safety Office
- Safety and Security
- Physical Educational Requirements
- Cafeteria
- External Commons
- Receiving and Storage
- Traffic, Busing and Parking Elements
- Site Planning
- Playfields
- Landscape
- Co-Curriculum Space
- **and much more.....**



Phase I detail.....

What are Boundary Conditions for Design Elements for K-4 grades?

- How many K-4 students should be planned for?
 - What should the short term flexibility be?
 - What should the long term flexibility be?
 - Planning for pre-school?
- What are the number of students per classroom per grade constraints?
- What should the school size(s) be?
- What should the school districts boundaries be?
- Will there be a need for interim district boundaries?
- How many K-4 schools should there be?
- What site options should be developed?
- What re-districting will be required?



Phase I and II detail for community rationale...

- **“Compatibility”** with overall Vision for East Lyme
 - Does the plan maximize the use of town assets in the short and long-term?
 - What are the short term logistics?
- **“Affordability”** for the community
 - Bonding – What is the right time to implement?
 - Are there savings in the BOE budget with changes?
- **“Adaptability”**
 - Is the plan flexible for the future?
 - Pre-school if it is mandated in the future?
- **“Operation-ability”**
 - What are the operating synergies between the Town and BOE?



“Renovate as New or Build New or Combination” **An Example** of Time Frames.....

Phase 1

Hire a design firm Sept 2013

Complete the Educational Specifications for K-4 Grades Feb 2014

Complete boundaries for design element April 2014

Phase 2

Design the facility(s) and select the final design Nov 2014

Town approval for bonding Feb 2015

File for State Reimbursement June 2015

Phase 3

Develop building specifications and go out to bid Feb 2016

Complete logistics plan for construction and School holding school May 2016

Phase 4

Begin construction June 2016

Complete all construction June 2018



“Renovate as New or Build New or Combination”

Pro:

- Delivers contemporary facilities for our elementary programs
- Sets the future
- Builds for future flexibility
- Reimbursement from State
- Current material costs and interest rates
- Significantly lower annual operational costs

Con:

- Change for everyone
- Time for completion



***Selecting a Path Forward
for
Our Elementary School Facilities***

**We want to hear your thoughts,
comments , ideas and
questions.....**

**If we can provide answers tonight,
we will!**

What path is the right path?

