

NEW HAMPTON CSD COMMUNITY SURVEY: LONG RANGE SCHOOL FACILITIES AND TAX MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Thank you for offering your opinions and returning your comments to your New Hampton School District. The Board and Administration appreciate your efforts for our community.

After carefully reading each question and the details in each option, please either check off your preference or show a first or second choice by adding a "1" or "2". Feel free to add your comments!

1. Which best represents your opinion regarding the District's current downtown Elementary and Middle School facilities?

- a. We should continue to repair and remodel annually, regardless of the consumption of both State sales tax dollars given the District and the added impact on locally generated property tax levies.
- b. These schools have had their life extended, but if annual expenses no longer make good business sense for taxpayers, these facilities should be replaced in a long term plan of affordable phases serving a logical group of grades that are more educationally efficient and less costly to operate.
- c. We should replace the whole campus as a single building, all at one time, even if it involves a greater amount of property tax to be added to sales tax funds available.
- d. We should replace the Elementary and Middle Schools as separate buildings, all at one time, even if it involves a greater amount of property tax to be added to sales tax funds available.

2. What do you feel would be the best long term arrangement for New Hampton's school locations?

- a. **Keep** the two sites we have and purchase or otherwise acquire more land at the **downtown** site as may be needed to replace current facilities over time. (This option may not be possible due to existing land area restrictions and acquisition not being available or economically feasible.)
- b. **Purchase one new site** to relocate **BOTH** the Elementary and Middle School facilities, assuming that operating and repair costs would be lower than the current downtown site, but still less than adding two new sites. Transportation costs would be higher until both Elementary and Middle Schools were relocated here. Land purchase, construction and equipment costs would be higher than building these facilities at the existing High School site.
- c. **Purchase one new site**, to relocate **EITHER** the Elementary **OR** the Middle School to another, assuming that operating and transportation costs would be higher than ending up on one site. Repair costs would still be lowered at the current downtown site. Land purchase, construction and equipment costs would be higher than either adding one site for both Elementary and Middle Schools or building these facilities at the existing High School site.
- d. Start a **phased plan** by adding a new Middle School to the **existing High school site**, perhaps to the west of the existing High School. This option has no land purchase expense, lower operating costs and lower construction and equipment costs to replace the Middle School than the above options. It allows extended access to technologies, resources and educational opportunities to MS students by being adjacent to the High School. Some transportation savings and activities efficiencies would result. (Later **adding an adjacent Elementary would remain a future option**, but may require a small addition of land to allow it to be a separate building with appropriate play space, etc. This long term combination has the lowest operating, transportation, and equipment costs of all options, with construction costs being lower due to space and other efficiencies of this site option.)

3. If the District voters were to decide to adopt a long term phased plan to replace and relocate Elementary and Middle School facilities, which grades do you think should move in the first phase?

- a. **Middle School facilities.** Two separated teaching areas, one for 7th and 8th grades and another for 5th and 6th grades would likely result, with properly scheduled sharing of library and other resources, PE, lunch and administrative facilities, and for for best use of technologies and construction and equipment cost efficiencies. This option is likely to **removes enough functions** from the existing downtown site to allow for the 1913 building to no longer be used for teaching, and to either be demolished or "mothballed." Options remain to separately determine the Elementary replacement. Annual repair costs are significantly reduced.
- b. **Pre-Kindergarten and Elementary facilities.** Two or three separated teaching areas, one for our Pre-Kindergarten programs, and others for 1st and 2nd and another for 3rd and 4th grades would likely result, with properly scheduled sharing of library and other resources, PE, lunch and administrative facilities, and for for best use of technologies and construction and equipment cost efficiencies. Due to the number of classrooms and related spaces needed, this option **does not remove enough teaching functions** from the existing downtown site to allow for the 1913 building to be either demolished or "mothballed." Options remain to separately determine the Middle School replacement. Annual repair costs may be only slightly reduced, and the partial active use of the 1913 building offers little operating savings.

4. **If** the District voters were to decide to adopt any of the **long term phased plans** listed above to replace and relocate either the Elementary or Middle School facilities, should some improvements for security and shared use facilities such as practice and activities areas and a school/community use auditorium be included with an initial phase of the long range plan?

- a. Yes.
- b. Consider making it an option.
- c. No.

5. Please consider the **long range costs for and Tax Management Planning options** to resolve New Hampton's upcoming facilities needs, and the effects on our taxpayers as we strive to provide quality educational opportunities within reasonable operating, transportation, equipment, and overall facilities costs. How do we best proceed?

- a. **Continue to use virtually all of the sales tax funds** we receive from the State **for repairs and related shorter term costs**, understanding that the property taxes needed to supplement these costs will rise.
- b. **Re-direct** as much of the **sales tax funding** as possible to work toward a **PHASED long term facilities solution** along the lines of choices to the survey questions above and our voters direction. This will result in a minimal property tax change to augment the sales tax if initiated over the next 2-3 years and may provide significant operating cost savings.

6. Please consider the **long range costs for and Tax Management Planning options** to resolve New Hampton's upcoming facilities needs, and the effects on our taxpayers as we strive to provide quality educational opportunities within reasonable operating, transportation, equipment, and overall facilities costs. Note that the State allows a property tax levy of up to \$4.05 per \$1,000 of net assessed valuation after rollbacks and credits are applied for District bond and building needs. How do we best proceed?

- a. **Continue to use virtually all of the sales tax funds** we receive from the State **for repairs and related shorter term costs**, understanding that the property taxes needed to supplement these costs will rise.
- b. **Re-direct** as much of the **sales tax funding** as possible to work toward a **PHASED FUNDING for a long term facilities solution for either Middle School OR Elementary replacement needs** along the lines of choices to the survey questions above and our voters' direction. This could result in using as little as about one fourth to one third of (roughly only about \$1.00 to \$1.35) of the State allowed levy for facilities and letting the sales tax do the rest of the work paying for an anchoring phase of a long term plan, and could include security and some shared use improvements needed at the high school. Operational and energy savings would also result, helping to control future locally paid tax levies for many years to come. This type plan would take about 3 years to complete, 2014-16, and funding would be done over multiple years. Construction cost inflation exposure would be limited to the second phase of the plan to be approved in a future year.
- c. **Re-direct** as much of the **sales tax funding** as possible to work toward a **SINGLE FUNDING for a long term facilities solution for both Elementary and Middle School replacement needs** along the lines of choices to the survey questions above and our voters' direction. This could result in using as little as 60-65% (roughly about \$2.40 to \$2.65) of the State allowed levy for facilities and letting the sales tax do the rest of the work paying for a complete long term plan, and could include security and some shared use improvements needed at the high school. Significant operational and energy savings would also result, helping to control future locally paid tax levies for many years to come. This type plan would take about 3-4 years to complete, 2014-16 or 17, and funding would be done over multiple years. The District exposure to construction cost inflation for these projects would end at initial bidding.

7. Please share with us any additional comments and suggestions you might have!

8. Please check off any of the following which describes you or your household:

- a. Parent of one or more students **currently** in the New Hampton schools
- b. Parent, or planning to be a parent of a **future** New Hampton schools student
- c. Parent of one or more students **formerly** in the New Hampton schools
- d. In town property taxpayer in the New Hampton Community School District
- e. Rural area property taxpayer in the New Hampton Community School District
- f. Registered voter(s)

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR OPINIONS AND SUGGESTIONS! YOUR PROMPT MAILING BACK TO US WILL SPEED PUBLISHING THE RESULTS AND WHEN FUTURE OPEN WORKSHOPS WILL BE HELD.