

Dear Members of the Beecher Road School Community and Residents of Woodbridge,

On Tuesday, October 13th, Woodbridge residents will vote on whether to support a new Beecher Road School building, which would be constructed on the North Playground.

The recommendation to construct a new building follows close to four years of public discussion and assessment, including detailed studies of the educational needs of our students, current building infrastructure, and projected changes in the size of the student population.

The three primary challenges identified through this thorough process include:

- **A shortage of classrooms and flexible learning spaces.** For example, in the 2026-27 school year, two music teachers and one health teacher are providing instruction from “a cart” and a dozen other teachers are sharing five educational spaces.
- **The deterioration of a rapidly aging building** constructed primarily between 1960 and 1970. The current building also lacks full ADA compliance and an up-to-date security-centered layout.
- **Projected growth in the student population**—a rarity among Connecticut towns. This is based on existing Woodbridge housing. Proposed expansions of housing options in Town would further increase this growth, resulting in larger class sizes or the need to identify and fund additional educational spaces in the community.

Among the range of options the bipartisan Building Committee considered to address these challenges were adding onto the current building, taking the current building down to the studs and completely rebuilding it, and constructing a brand new building. Ultimately, the Committee determined that **constructing a new Beecher Road School building was the option that fully addresses all three challenges *and* is the most cost effective.**

Constructing a new Beecher Road School building will cost \$118.5 million. However, we have secured a commitment from the State of Connecticut to reimburse more than half of this cost, which is highly unusual for an affluent town like Woodbridge. **Our community’s share would be \$55.5 million.**

For an average homeowner, the impact on their property taxes would be an average of \$80 per month over the length of the debt services. This works out to about \$12 per month per \$100,000 of market value.

The alternative to constructing a brand new Beecher Road School building will be similarly costly.

Estimates prepared for the Town indicate that keeping our current building operational over the next 20 years will cost Woodbridge taxpayers \$45 million to \$60 million. Meanwhile, this investment in keeping the doors open will address none of the major challenges identified over the past several years.

As the Beecher referendum approaches, we encourage you to learn as much as you can, reach out to us with any questions, and **be sure to vote on Tuesday, October 13th.**

Finally, **please be aware that the language of the referendum will specify the full \$118.5 million, as is required by State statute.** However, rest assured that our 53% State reimbursement for the project has already been secured. Constructing a new building would not happen without it!

Sincerely,
Members of the Woodbridge Board of Education

[List WBOE members]