

Update- 8/9/2017 School Modernization Building Committee (SMBC)

We hope everyone has been enjoying the summer. The SMBC continues to work hard throughout the summer finishing the work required to get the school building projects off the ground. At the current juncture, we have completed everything we need to as a committee to be "shovel ready". We have received clearance from USDA and foresee receiving approval this week from The State of Connecticut's office of Construction and Grants (DAS) to put the project out to bid. Following this approval, we should be soliciting bids for our construction partners to help us build our state of the art facilities.

We will be unable to award any contracts or start any work until we hear from the State of CT that bonding has been approved. You may remember, our project is considered an "A" priority and thus is first on the list for funding IF and WHEN the State settles on bonding and provides us the 46.07% reimbursement rate we were awarded last December (per the resolution passed May 2016). Bonding approval generally follows budget approval and the State has yet to pass a budget for this year so things are currently at a bit of a standstill.

Shortly after the bonding is approved you should begin to see us "fence off" certain areas of the campus where work will begin. Those who have been involved in major renovation projects will tell you that there is a lot of work that determines your plan and approach to a project. Over the past year we have been working towards the approach of constructing the MS/HS first, and once those students move into the new building, utilizing the existing MS/HS space for approximately 1 year for our Elementary students so we can safely renovate the existing Elementary school while it is unoccupied. The existing MS/HS would have necessary modifications made to accommodate Elementary students. All of our plans, drawings, and bidding schedule were developed and specified in this manner. Given the delays with the state our timeline could change. We will continue to have meetings with the administration in the coming months to make this process as smooth as possible. Everyone should understand that with any renovation there will be challenges. Our priority is the safety of students and faculty and we will do everything to insure their safety.

Should the legislature be unable to settle the bonding and budget issues very soon we may run into additional schedule issues which could compromise the aforementioned dates and also could impact the amount of work we can accomplish due to cost escalations. We are also awaiting their approval of our grant (as our all other schools in the State who are seeking reimbursement). There is a lot of speculation at this point but residents should know the work of the legislature is important and will have impacts on our project and schedule should they remain unable to come together.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to email the committee at murgo@northstoningtonct.gov or come to any of our committee meetings which are posted on the town website by agenda. We are looking forward to beginning construction as soon as we are able to.

Mike Urgo
SMBC Chairman