

# School Building Project Community Event

Background Information, Educational  
Specifications, Site Selection

# School Building Project | Introduction

## Today's agenda:

- Background
  - Current conditions
  - Studies and actions
- Developing the Educational Specifications for a New School
- Selecting a Building Site
- Creating a Conceptual Building Design
- Next Steps
- Question and Answer Session

## Next sessions (May 7, 10, 11):

- Construction Costs
- Operating Costs
- Transportation
- Referendum Process

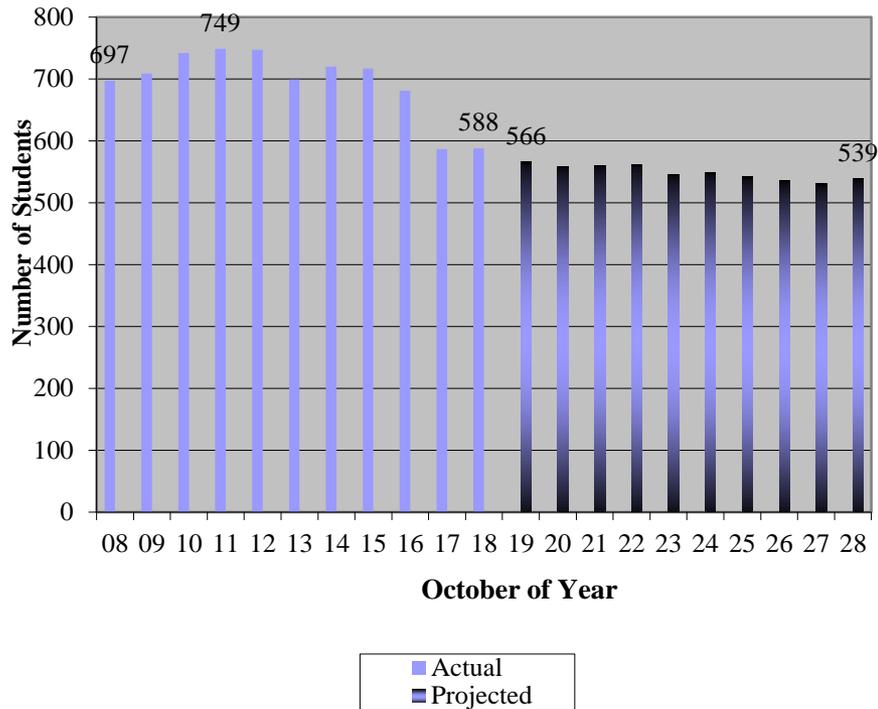
# School Building Project | Current Conditions



# School Building Project | Current Conditions

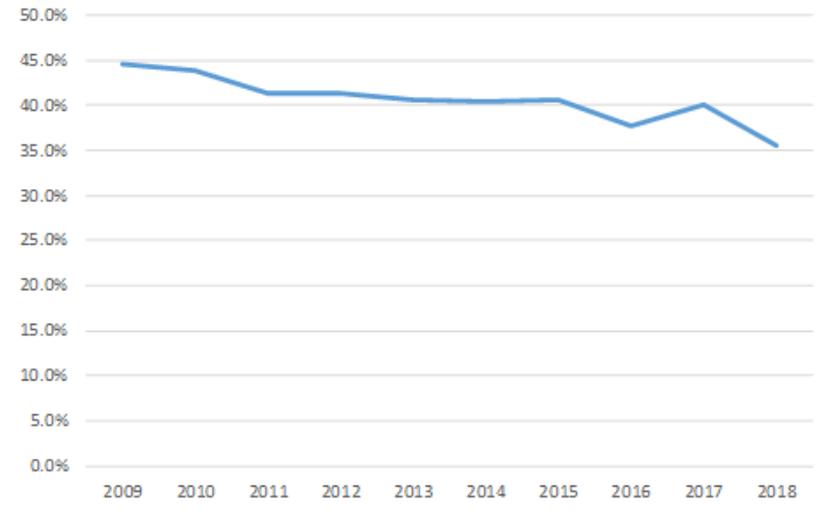
## Enrollment

Figure 5. Elementary Enrollment

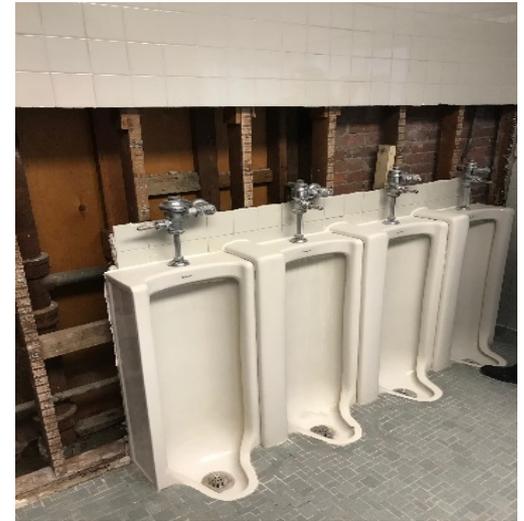


## State Revenue

State Aid % of Budget



# School Building Project | Current Conditions



# School Building Project | Current Conditions



# School Building Project | Studies and Actions

How we came to identify one new elementary school as the best solution for the future of Mansfield's students.

## **A BRIEF REVIEW OF ACTIONS TO DATE**

# School Building Project | Studies and Actions

## School Facility Planning Study – Completed September 2017

Input gathered from more than 100 members of the community

- Focused on the mission and vision for learning
- Examined current facility conditions and needs
- Reviewed student performance and engagement
- Reviewed school enrollment projections for next ten years
- Analyzed expenditures, revenues, and future forecast

## School Facility Planning Study - Findings

- Open, flexible **common spaces** that promote collaboration, teamwork, movement, and play
- Large, **flexible classrooms** that allow for project-based learning, collaboration, and movement
- Enclosed, soundproof spaces for individual reflection and **quiet work time**
- Multiple options for **comfortable seating and standing** which can be reconfigured to promote student agency in creating the environment that best meets the learning needs
- **Outdoor learning spaces** which support the integration of the environment and academic learning
- **Accessible physical and digital resources**, materials, and tools to facilitate student creativity and exploration

## Considering the Options

Board of Education held three workshops to consider the findings of the study, gather additional information, and consider options:

- Renovate all existing schools
- Consolidate and renovate schools
- Change grade configurations
- Build new schools – 3
- Consolidate and build new school(s)

## **Engaging the Community – Winter 2018**

Brought options to the community for feedback – more than 200 people participated. Provided information on:

- Enrollment
- Condition and needs of current buildings
- State revenues
- Reimbursement grants from State of CT
- Research on school size and grade configuration
- Sustainability
- Transportation
- Mission and Vision for Learning
- School design practices today

# School Building Project | Studies and Actions

## Summary of Community Input

- Educational programs and sense of community must remain strong
- Maintaining three schools is costly, renovations would be disruptive and may not be reimbursed by state
- Building should support goals of education system
- One school supports fiscal and educational needs
- One school reduces energy costs and some staff overlap
- One school allows for improved facility such as gym and cafeteria space; flexible learning spaces; and spaces designed to meet variety of student needs
- Bringing students and teachers together increases diversity, supports collaboration, strengths programs, and enhances social experiences

# School Building Committee | **Membership**

- Randy Walikonis (Chair)
- Chris Kueffner (Vice Chair)
- Madison Day
- Richard Weyel
- Steven Ferrigno
- Mary deVecchis
- Chris McNaboe
- Paul Shapiro (Town Council)
- Kathy Ward (Board of Education)

## School Building Committee | **Responsibilities**

- Responsibilities: To identify a site for the new elementary school building and oversee the design and construction of a new school
- The SBC retained the services of Scott Pellman (Colliers International) as Project Manager and Ryszard Szczpek (TSKP Studio) for Architectural Services

# School Building Committee | Major Activities

- Develop the Educational Specifications
- Create a conceptual school design
- Identify a site for the new school
  - Test for adequate space,
  - Determine site development costs
  - Conduct environmental analysis
- Apply to the Department of Administrative Services Office of School Construction Grants & Review for partial reimbursement of construction costs
- Oversee design and construction of new elementary school

# School Building Project | Opportunities

## Research on School Size

- No universal optimal elementary school size
- Students from affluent backgrounds tend to perform better in larger settings, while students from low SES do better in smaller schools.
- Educational and socio-emotional supports can foster close student-teacher bonds and caring school community in schools of any size
- Smaller districts may benefit from larger elementary schools – pool resources

## Opportunities

- Learning, not teaching, must dictate school design
- Flexibility – allow for variety of learning environments
  - Individual, small group, 1:1, large group
  - Teacher directed, student presentation
- Sustainability
  - Positive impact of daylight and clean air;
  - Build student understanding of environmental concepts

# School Building Project | Flexible Open Spaces



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# Kosta Diamantis

Director, Office of School Construction Grants & Review