

The Town of Enfield
Pre-Referendum Consolidation
Committee Public Meeting

April 3, 2012

Why are we Considering Consolidating the two High Schools

- Student population/enrollment for both schools has decreased and is projected to continue at this trend.
 - Some courses cannot be offered in both schools due to low participation by dividing the students into two schools.
 - Currently 11 teachers travel between schools and lose a duty period. Students traveling between schools lose a course period.
- The State of CT passed new high school graduation requirements that neither high school currently meet.
- Students transfer to the other high school to take advantage of programs their high school does not provide.
 - Parents must provide transportation.
 - This is not an option for those students who do not have transportation.

Why are we Considering Consolidating the two High Schools

- The physical conditions of both high schools are not compliant in their current state in the following areas:
 - Building Code
 - ADA Requirements
 - Health & Safety Code
 - Academically

- Cost of bringing two schools up to the current requirements:
 - Only a small percentage being reimbursed by the state.

Why was Enfield High Selected over Fermi High

- Existing building type of construction.
 - Contaminated soil at Fermi High; more stringent EPA requirements.
 - Enfield High's existing building is more conducive for renovations and additions due to the building type of construction and property layout.
 - Extensive ADA, Building Codes, Health & Safety upgrade requirements would have to be made to Fermi High.
 - Recent ADA, Building Codes, Health & Safety upgrades were done to Enfield High when the new Library addition was built.
 - No Bond money from the state available for Fermi High.
 - \$2 million Bond money from the state available to Enfield High until 2027.

Benefits of Consolidating the Two High Schools

- Updated IT & Computer Science Lab.
- Updated Career & Technical Education course offerings and facilities (i.e., Auto Shop, Wood/Metal Shop, Graphic Arts, Engineering, Food/Culinary Lab).
- More AP and General Courses to choose from.
- Expanded Band and Performing Arts facilities and programs.
- Possibility of offering more sports opportunities (i.e., JV and Freshmen teams).
- More Scheduling flexibility.
- Reduce the need for students to have extra Study Halls due to limited class availability.
- Can compete with Magnet Schools.
- Provide students with a 21st century education.

Benefits of Consolidating the Two High Schools

- The Town of Enfield's State Reimbursement Rate is currently at 71% on every dollar spent on "Renovate as New".
- Cost of Construction currently very favorable in CT.
- \$2 million per year savings on Building, Staff, Utilities and Operation costs.
- Possible Solar and more Energy Efficient Building.
- Eliminate students and teachers traveling between schools.
- Expanded auditorium.
- New Cafeteria.

The Cost if We Do Nothing

- The Cost of bringing two Schools up to the current requirements: Building Code, ADA Requirements, Health & Safety Code.
- Not all costs are considered reimbursed by the state.
- Possibility of fines/litigation costs for not bringing the two Schools up to the current requirements.
- Continue to pay \$2 million per year on existing building, staff utilities, and operations costs.
- Paying escalating energy costs due to outdated and inefficient equipment.

Where We Go From Here

- The committee will continue to meet with architects and discuss developments.
- Inform the public of progress through website and more public meetings.
- We have provided a http: site to review our meeting minutes.
 - <http://www.wenfield-ct.gov/content/25813/3271/default.aspx>
- The state required referendum timeline is attached.

High School Consolidation Referendum Timeframe

- Jan. 10, 2012 Board of Education Selects High School for Consolidation
- Jan. 27, 2012 RFQ (Request for Proposal) for Architectural Services
- Feb. 2, 2012 Joint Town Council/BOE meeting to Discuss Consolidation
- Feb. 20, 2012 Council Establish Pre-Referendum Steering Committee
- Feb. 23, 2012 Architect Given Authorization to Begin Work for Preliminary Planning
- Feb. 28, 2012 8 Year Estimated Enrollment for the Facility Established
- April 15, 2012 Develop Professional Cost Estimate for ED Spec.
- April 30, 2012 Council Authorizes Funding for Local Share
- May 1, 2012 Education Specifications Completed
- May 30, 2012 BOE Adopts ED049, Grant Application, and Educational Specifications

High School Consolidation Referendum Timeframe

- June 1, 2012 Begin Working with Bond Council on Necessary Council Resolutions
- June 30, 2012 Last Day for State Department of Education Reimbursement to be Filed
- July 2, 2012 Council Votes to Schedule Public Hearing for Referendum Questions
- Aug. 6, 2012 Public Hearing and Meeting Date to Adopt Referendum Questions by Council
- Sept. 1, 2012 Referendum Question to Secretary of State
- Nov. 6, 2012 Referendum Vote