

BERLIN SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECT

OUR SCHOOL, OUR FUTURE!

WHY?

- **Failing Systems:** plumbing, heating, flooring
- **Building Safety:** asbestos removal, security
- **Energy Efficiency:** lighting, heating
- **Code Compliance:** ADA, fire safety
- **Health:** asbestos removal, clean air
- **Student Needs:** 21st century learning environment

DISCUSS

- **Our 50-year-old school's necessary repairs**
- **Fiscal Responsibility to maintain this asset**
- **Smart Investments in and for the future**
- **Bonding, voting, and tax impact**

See Reverse Side for Details!

NEXT MEETING

**Tuesday,
August 30th
6pm – 8pm
BES Library**

**The Renovation
Committee will
present its
recommendations to
the school board on
the size and scope of
the essential
improvements.
Community Opinions
& Expertise needed!**

PLUS...

**Refreshments
served!**

**Can't make the
meeting but want
info?**

CONTACT

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Why renovate the school now?

- The items in this renovation project are primarily long-deferred but much-needed fixes of failing systems in a 50-year-old school. East Montpelier and Rumney schools are the same age and have recently undergone similar repairs. Our project is different--it does not include an increase in square footage.
- Many of the items on our list were part of a previous bond vote rejected in 2005. Those problems have not gone away--they've only gotten worse and are more expensive to maintain.
- This project consists of fixes for asbestos removal, electrical, system failures, code compliance and security updates. Waiting any longer would be irresponsible.

Why hasn't the school board built this into its regular budget?

- For many years, the school board has worked hard to present Berlin with a conservative and responsible school budget. Finding large dollar amounts is not easy in an annual budget. The major fixes of this project are too much for the school budget to absorb.

What needs to be done?

- HVAC (\$400K)
- ADA Accessibility (\$200K)
- Lighting/electrical (\$300K)
- Security (\$125K)
- Floor & Ceiling (\$300K)
- Building envelope (\$125K)
- Plumbing (\$275K)
- Gym floor and tables (\$75K)
- Asbestos abatement (\$250K)
- Fire code (\$25K)
- The major systems in need of replacement, repair or upgrading are: hot and cold water pipes, HVAC, lighting, floors and ceilings.
- All asbestos must be removed because of deteriorating pipes and floor tile throughout.
- Accessibility, fire safety and building security all need immediate improvement.

What about ACT 46 and consolidation?

- The outcome of Act 46 is still unknown. Regardless of any decision on merging as a district, we will still need our school. As one of the larger schools in the district, it is not going to close.

What about energy savings?

- Several thousand dollars will be saved each year on the lighting bill alone plus the decreased maintenance cost of newer longer-lasting lights. Thousands more in annual savings will come from upgrading room ventilators, exhaust fans, and the building envelope.
- Heating bills will also decrease with new, efficient HVAC systems and better energy controls.

Can't this wait until the economy or tax rates improve?

- The fixes in the project have been deferred for at least a decade and they are beginning to jeopardize student and teacher safety and health. Failing systems, poor lighting, air quality, security upgrades, and asbestos abatement cannot be ignored.

Is everything in the project really necessary?

- A dedicated committee met several times over the summer to prioritize investments and cut out unnecessary items or those which could be handled in the annual budget.

What will this mean for my tax bill?

- The decision to ask the community for this financial support was not taken lightly. This plan reflects the balance between facility and education needs and our concern for affordability. Property owners will see an increase on their tax bills. We will produce a table of expected tax impacts soon to inform voters of the anticipated changes well in advance of the bond vote.