

Maple Avenue and Bartlett Elementary School Renovation and Expansion Projects

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When did the plans for this project begin?

A: In 2008, the Goffstown School Board created the Elementary Facilities Renovation Committee. The goal of the committee was to explore all options for facilities for the education of our elementary school students. The committee was charged with reviewing a variety of options and making a recommendation to the School Board.

Q: What did the committee recommend?

A: After reviewing and compiling 6 different options for the building spaces, the committee made a recommendation to the School Board to renovate and expand both Bartlett Elementary School and Maple Avenue Elementary School. The School Board adopted this recommendation on September 21, 2009.

Q: Why did the committee choose this option?

A: After reviewing all options, the committee determined that the renovation and expansion of the two elementary schools would provide much needed classroom space and renovations to the schools that would allow the schools to continue to be viable spaces and meet the space needs for many years to come. The committee also considered financial implications and found this option to be the most fiscally sound and conservative cost.

Q: I thought that Glen Lake School was going to be added onto and made into an elementary school. Why wasn't this the decision of the committee?

A: When Glen Lake School was built, this was a thought. After thorough review of all options, the committee found that to add onto Glen Lake was more expensive than adding onto both schools. A Glen Lake addition also did not address any of the renovations that are badly needed at both schools. These would have been additional costs that would go far beyond the proposed project.

Q: Did the committee take into consideration that Phase II at Bartlett has been planned?

A: yes, the committee knew this. Phase II was to include an addition onto Bartlett for the library and a few classrooms. This project was still slated to be completed. So, if Glen Lake was added onto, this project would still be in the works to be completed.

Q: What happened after the School Board adopted the recommendation of the committee?

A: The School Board then created a new committee to begin the process of obtaining Architectural and Engineering Studies. This committee began its work in May 2010 and continues to meet.

Q: Have the Architectural and Engineering Studies been completed?

A: In March 2010, the public passed a warrant article allowing the School District to access Impact Fees to pay for the Architectural and Engineering Studies. The Committee went out to bid in March 2011 and received responses from 8 firms. The committee, after reviewing all bids, determined that CMK Architects was the best option for this project. The committee recommended CMK to the School Board on June 6, 2011. The board approved this recommendation on that date. The committee has been working with CMK over the past several months to complete the work. The work will be completed prior to the March 2012 bond vote.

Q: What was the total cost of the studies?

A: The agreed upon amount for this project was \$346,300. Impact fees were used to pay for this portion of the project.

Q: What are impact fees?

A: Impact fees are fees collected from builders when new projects in the community are developed. Impact fees are accumulated and applied to capital project needs. There was no tax impact to complete these studies.

Q: I heard that the 1922 section of Bartlett is projected to be torn down. Is that true?

A: Yes, the 1922 section of the school will be torn down. This was not the original plan of the committee. However, after reviewing the proposed plans, the committee determined that it was not a sound decision to add an addition and sandwich the oldest portion of the building in the center. In addition, the 1922 section of the building does not meet current classroom requirements- each classroom being a little more than 600 square feet. The new classrooms will be approximately 900square feet. Finally, the 1922 section of the building has many unusable spaces and unfunctionable areas. Have you ever had to walk up stairs to go downstairs?

Q: What are you adding at Maple Avenue?

A: Maple Avenue will be receiving two additions. In front of the gym, a new entrance and office area will be added. This will provide a defined and secure entrance to the school. Administration, nursing, and guidance will be contained in this area. In the back of the school, a new 3 story wing will be added, containing 10 classrooms and additional office and storage space.

Q: What renovations will be done at Maple Avenue?

A: Current use of space will be evaluated and renovations will be done to make those spaces usable. For example, the current office area, will be the new technology office and work space. The server will be moved out of the custodial closet and moved into this new space. Bathrooms will be upgraded. Classroom bathrooms will be removed and made into storage for teaching materials. Ventilation will be added to current space- which currently has none.

Q: What new space are you adding at Bartlett?

A: With the removal of the 1922 wing, a new space will be added that includes 10 classrooms, a library, a smart room, office and storage space. In addition, a new kitchen area will be added to the back of the gym/café. This space will provide for all kitchen equipment and a service line to be contained with the kitchen space. Current kitchen space will be converted to usable storage and office space.

Q: What is the next step in this project?

A: Voters will be able to decide if this project is important to the schools and community in March 2012. There will be a warrant article on the ballot to approve these projects.

Q: What is the cost of the projects?

A: The warrant article is for a bond of up to \$15,770,056. This will be the maximum amount of both projects.

Q: If the projects are approved when will construction be completed?

A: The School Board has authorized the building committee to go out to bid to choose a construction firm. The committee has completed the bid process, with 9 firms responding. The committee is currently in the process of choosing a construction management firm. Once the warrant article is approved, the School District will be ready to go and construction can begin once school ends.

Q: Will the projects be completed at the same time?

A: Since the plans including tearing down a portion of Bartlett, the two projects can not be completed at the same time. The plan would be for the Maple Avenue project to be completed first. This will allow for additional classroom space. Some of Bartlett students would then be bused to Maple Avenue School for the next year. This will provide for classroom space while Bartlett is completed in the following year. The length of the project is expected to be between 2 and 2.5 years for completion.

Q: What are the bond rates and what is the tax impact of this project?

A: Current bond rates are very favorable right now. The tax impact for the first year is estimated to be .27 per 1,000 and subsequent years of \$1.04 per 1,000. Remember though that until a bond is purchased, the numbers are always subject to change!

Q: Why should we do this project now? The economy is still in a recession and people may not be able to afford this?

A: The district continues to acknowledge the state of the economy, however, it also recognizes that our schools are lacking in space and need renovations. This need is not going away. The need for improvement and expansion of our schools has been known for more than 10 years. Now is the time- interest rates are low and construction companies are in need of work- all factors to consider as we work to get the best deal for Goffstown.

Q: Is this project eligible for building aid?

A: Unfortunately, the state has put a moratorium on building aid. There is currently no additional building aid in the state budget until at least 2014. There is a committee that is currently studying building aid and will be making a recommendation to the legislation regarding this aid program. The state continues to be concerned that they can not afford to provide this aid program at current levels. It is anticipated that aid will not be available and or may be restricted.

Q: If the district does not get building aid, what is the impact?

A: The district could have received 30% reimbursement from the state. At this point, no one knows what this aid program will be changed to. If the district waited until the aid program came back, it could be many years. In addition, the district has no idea if the aid program will come back and in what form it returns. With the low costs of construction now, the possible reimbursement may be neutralized by the current projected low costs.

Q: What happens if this project does not pass in March?

A: It would likely cause the district to begin looking at expanding the use of portables in the district. The community would likely see the purchase or rental of one more portable at each school in the next year's budget. The School Board will determine if the voters will see the warrant again on the ballot in 2013.

Q: What would the district do with the current portables?

A: The plan at this time would be to move the portables to GHS to house our Alternative Education Program. This program is currently house off site, with an annual rental charge of approximately \$25,000. This would be a cost savings to the district.

Q: I haven't been in the schools in some time. Can I visit the schools to see what you are looking to do?

A: Yes! The district has completed an open house at each school already. There is another set planned in each school. The open houses at Bartlett will be on February 15. At Maple Avenue, it is scheduled for February 22. The opens houses will be from 6:00-7:30. You may come at any time during this period. There will be guided tours and the building plans will be available for review. Can't make those times? Please call the Superintendent of Schools office and make arrangements for a time to visit.

Q: Where can I find additional information on the projects?

A: There is additional information on the website (www.goffstown.k12.nh.us). In addition, school administration and school board members would be more than happy to speak with you regarding the projects. Proposed drawings can be found at both elementary schools.