

Nancy Tomastik, Maple Road. Good evening, everyone.

I would again like to ask that you not schedule the school referendum during the presidential election in November. After all of the incredible amount of work that you and countless others have done on this extremely important Mansfield issue, we cannot chance leaving the outcome to the approximate 2,500 UConn students who are registered to vote. We can't take that chance - - that risk - - and give away our decision-making power.

I hope the majority of you are uncomfortable about having a transient population vote tipping the balance of the outcome on the future of our schools. On the other hand, I also understand that you're probably concerned about getting out the required 15% vote if you schedule the referendum other than during the presidential election. I realize that previous Mansfield referendums have occasionally failed for that reason. But let's not give up so easily on our residents. I've got some ideas that seem to be very do-able and that I humbly offer for your consideration:

My overall idea is that this school referendum would be the perfect issue in which to go all-out to make voters aware and to get-out the vote.

1) Signs and notices. Why not absolutely pepper the town with signs as reminders for folks to go to the polls? You could have Town staff make the signs and place them all over town - - along the roadsides, at the Community Center, the Senior Center, Town Hall and more. Give me a few signs, and I'll be glad to pound them into the ground along the road on our property. There's lots of traffic on Maple Road. Heck, I'll be glad to make my own signs & do it! And have notices posted on bulletin boards in all the town buildings and wherever else possible. Have a Town staff member create a snazzy notice and run it constantly on Channel 13. As far as I've seen, we've never had a big splash regarding a referendum. I bet that Matt Hart and his staff could make it happen.

2) Phone calls. Ask for volunteers to make phone calls to voters leading up to the referendum. Here and now, I volunteer to make calls. Just give me a list.

3) School involvement. In whatever ways appropriate, why couldn't the School Superintendent's office get involved? I know you don't control that office, but can't you have the Town Manager send a memo asking for their help? After all, it IS a school issue! To rev up parents even more than they probably already are, the schools could send home reminder notices to the parents to get out and vote. The extra bonus is that here's a real civic lesson for the children to see going on around them and on an issue that's exciting and personal - - their own school. Also the PTO's could ask for parent volunteers to help make phone calls.

4) Hire an airplane to fly over town with a big banner blowing in the breeze. (Okay, I went too far on that one.)

But the point is that the whole town needs to get fired up! You, our Town Council, can help make that happen! We all care about education and our schools! Therefore, let the regular townspeople decide.

Thank you.



My name is Anthony Kotula, I live at 135 Maple Road, Mansfield.

I believe Mansfield should provide a proper education for the children.

We all can agree, investing thirty five million dollars requires a major financial decision.

Many, if not most, large businesses have deferred such a large financial decision until after the election.

Might I suggest the Council do likewise, and defer their decision until the state of the future economy has stabilized, hopefully, by next year.

Handout: Town Council Meeting, June 7, 2012
Jay Rueckl, South Eagleville Road, Board of Education Member

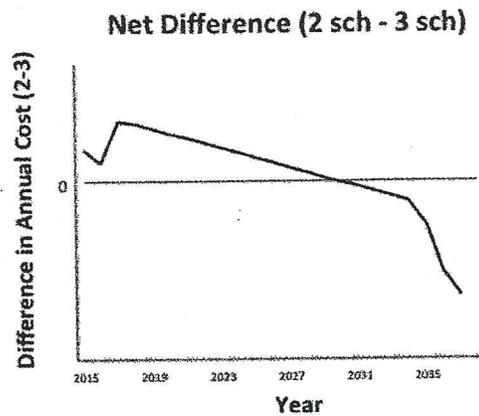
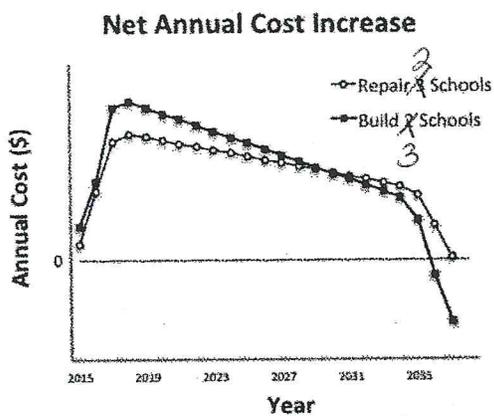
Strengths of our school system

- Three elementary schools
- Small elementary schools
- Low student/teacher ratio
- Dedicated, professional staff
- Intensive remedial programs
- Extensive enrichment programs
- World language programs
- Music programs
- Arts programs
- Many extracurricular activities

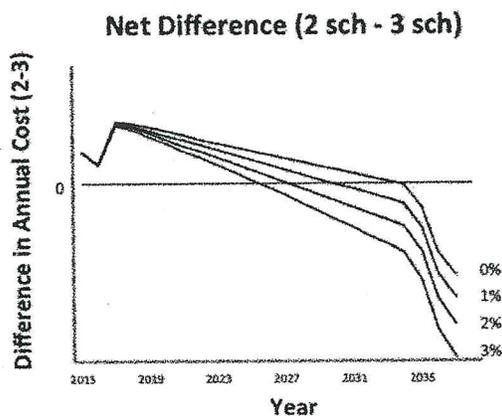
Sustainability of educational budget (including impact on property taxes)

- Recent History
 - Flat budget for four years running (without lowering educational quality)
 - Achieved by:
 - Use of federal recovery money and reserve fund excesses
 - Minimizing salary increases
 - Deferred hiring and technology upgrades
 - Deferred building maintenance
- Costs
 - General inflation Affects both equally (ignoring maintenance costs)
 - Energy Increases: Advantage 2-school
 - Wages Increases: Advantage 2-schools
 - Health care Increases: Advantage 2-schools
 - Maintenance/building Necessary increases with either plan: Annual costs greater for 2-school plan initially, greater for 3-schools in long run
- Revenue
 - ECS formula Lower revenues, greater tax pressure for both plans
 - PILOT, etc Lower revenues, greater tax pressure for both plans
 - Grand list Increased revenues, reduced tax pressure for both plans
- State, Federal Policy
 - Education mandates Likely increase: No advantage to either plan
 - Building reimbursement Likely: Unfriendly changes, advantage 2-schools
Less likely: Friendly changes, advantage Plan A (provided higher reimbursement rate not offset by maintenance costs during delay)
- Enrollment
 - Increases Can be accommodated given either plan
 - Decreases With three schools, more difficult to maintain class size; large decrease would necessitate closing one school

Cost comparison: 2- vs. 3-school plans



- Values change with assumptions, but form is constant
 - Short term: two-school option is more expensive due to greater construction costs
 - Long term: two-school option is less expensive due to greater operational savings (energy, personnel, maintenance)
 - Crossover point depends on building costs, savings, inflation, choices about debt service (reasonable assumptions: 12-20 years)
- Long-term advantage of two-school plan extends indefinitely
- Short-term cost increases are inevitable due to necessary maintenance costs—offsetting these costs within the education budget would result in unacceptable damage to our educational program
- Previous estimates of Maintenance/repair plan (Plan A) underestimated costs
 - Replace ‘portable’ classrooms; upgrades in informational technology
- Delays increase costs of both plans
- Peak costs can be manipulated (with a trade-off in total costs)
- Educational costs/benefits are not factored into the graph



Submitted by Alison Holding 6/1/12

November Election Data 2000 - 2012

Town of Mansfield

The chart below lists the total number of registered Mansfield voters for each year, the total number of voters who participated at the polls on election day, the total number of votes cast on referendum questions, and the percent these referendum votes represented of the total votes cast at each election. In other words, the percentage figure represents what percent of the participating voters cast a ballot on the referendum questions.

Year	Registered Voters	Voted at Polls	Votes on Referendum	Percent of Voters at Polls Who Voted on Referendum
Presidential				
2000	8,273	6,696	4,524	68%
2001		No Data Available		
2002	7,671	4,289	No Referendum	
2003		No Data Available		
Presidential				
(?) 2004	(?) 10,086	(?) 10,086	No Referendum	
2005	9,702	2,561	2,219	87%
2006	10,430	6,275	5,740	91%
Joe Courtney				
2007	9,392	2,305	2,178	94%
Presidential				
2008	13,050	10,217	9,595	94%
2009	12,094	2,356	2,342	99%
2010	11,943	5,785	5,285	91%
2011	10,414	2,238	2,146	96%
Presidential				
2012	9,974			

State of CT Constitutional Referendum only - eliminate or keep sherrifs

From: Rick Lawrence [mailto:Rick@TheLawrenceAssociates.com]
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2012 12:15 PM
To: 'paige.farnham@ct.gov'
Subject: Mansfield Schools Building Project

Paige:

You may recall during the meeting held at the BSF on December 28, 2011 the topic of "Renovate Like New" was discussed. I stated that we had looked into the basic criteria to meet the "Guidelines for Applying for Renovations Status" and found that all three elementary schools did not meet the requirements in Section 10-282 (18) of the C.G.S. part (C) which states ".....not less than seventy-five per cent of the facility to be renovated is at least thirty years old." At that meeting I had completed the calculations but did not share them with those in attendance but would like to present them below:

School Name	Original Year Constructed	Original S.F.	1990 Addition	Total S. F.	Per cent of Building more than 30 yrs. old
Annie Vinton	1951	21,650	14,004	35,654	61%
D. Goodwin	1955	26,454	11,410	37,864	70%
Southeast	1955	21390	11,886	33,276	64%

As you can see all three elementary schools have less than the minimum 75% of their area being more than the 30 year old requirement. In light of the Governor's initiative to allow districts to receive a potentially higher reimbursement rate if "Renovate Like New Status" is achieved, questions have been raised regarding the potential of receiving a "modification or waiver" of the 75% requirement to allow Mansfield to further pursue this option.

I am writing to ask the following questions:

- 1) Do you know if there have been school districts that received "modifications or exceptions" to this requirement, presumably arranged by special legislation?
- 2) If such special legislation were to be introduced, what would be the stance of the BSF?

Thank you for your time and anticipated response.

Rick

Richard S. Lawrence, AIA

From: Farnham, Paige
Sent: Monday, June 04, 2012 2:54 PM
To: 'Rick Lawrence'
Subject: RE: Mansfield Schools Building Project

Rick – I cannot confirm your data below to our system at this time due to my own time constraints.  If your data is correct, then none of the listed schools would qualify for renovation status due to their failure to meet the 30 years and 75% criteria. In response to your questions:

1. A couple of districts have sought and obtained special legislation to remedy the 30 years and 75% criteria.
2. Historically BSF remains neutral with regard to most legislation. We are asked by the legislature to provide or quantify the costs to the state for all special legislation.

Paige