

Hi Ruth, Thank you for your thoughtful questions. I tried to answer them as best I could.

Since I passed this out yesterday I have thought more on this and honestly I don't have a problem telling you all I will probably vote yes on this because our school need help but have questions like:

If you have answers please pass them on... Kathy do you or can you tell people these will be address in the town meetings?

- 1990 school additions were paid how? **With a 2 ½ Debt Exclusion**
 - Are these "bonds/loans" paid off? **Yes, Paid off in FY 09**
 - No - how much longer? has that money been included in this formula?
 - Yes - where did the extra taxes from the 1990 project go? **Since it was paid outside the tax levy, once it was paid off the taxes were no longer collected.**
 - Where will the extra taxes go after the 25 years? (however in 25 years we will fixing the buildings again) **If extra taxes are collected outside the levy limit, they will be collected until the debt is paid. If things work out as the FinComm hopes we will not be collecting anything extra. The debt payment will come from the usual tax levy. Taxes will not go up any more than they usually do from year to year.**
- What and why a "25-year bond issue with level debt service"? **The consultants ran the numbers for 20 years, 25 years and 30 years .**
 - Can we pay this off early? **Twenty five years seems to be the best deal.**
 - Have we looked into a shorter number of year bond? **Yes, but 25 years seemed to be the best deal.**
 - History shows in 25 years we will be doing another large project on these buildings again. **The current building project is anticipated to satisfy the District's needs for 50 years.**
- How did the total MSBA approved budget get determined? **To do the project the State required us to contract for an Owner's Project Manager. He works for us to assure that the project moves forward, and that costs are reasonable. An architect was also hired. Needs were assessed, plans drawn up and shared with the Building Committee. After many meetings a plan was settled on that addressed the region's current and future needs.. The plan was submitted to independent cost estimators. They estimated the costs. The Owner's Project Manager reviewed them. The MSBA reviewed the cost estimates. Everyone associated with the project is confident about the numbers.**

- How solid are they? The people and firms hired have solid reputations and a great number of years of experience.
- Do they have plenty of inflation, contingency and risk? Yes, I don't remember the percentage off the top of my head , maybe 10%, but we can ask Monday night , as the Architect and Program Manager will be at the STM.
- Who will be doing the work? The Architect is JCJ Architecture, www.JCJ.com, Greg Smolley is the contact. The Owner's Project Manager is Jon Winikur from Strategic Building Solutions, www.go-sbs.com. The construction firm will not be chosen until after a public bid process.
- What is their reputation? They each had good references and were chosen during an open vetting process.
- Who is overlooking the work? The Owner's Project Manager and the Architect oversee the project and the construction. The Owner's Project Manager makes sure that any decisions made or activities are in the district's best interest.
- What say do we the towns have in this? We have a voting member on the District's Building Committee Ted Sussmann and a non-voting school committee member Bill Stevenson who attend all the meetings and make the decisions.
- What if we go over or under budget? If the bids are too high the project's scope will be changed and the project will be re-bid. If they come in low, we'll borrow less. Both the cost and the project have been approved by MSBA setting the parameters of the project. Anything other than incidental changes would require the state and the town's approval.
 - Who pays or gets the difference? There cannot be a difference.

I hope you will pass the below on to all in town.

Ruth

Thanks so much Ruth for taking an interest and passing this information on. Kathy

Sincerely,

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