

Nashua Middle School Project

July 2019

Nashua is currently in the first phase of a major project to investigate education and infrastructure needs with our three middle schools: Elm Street Middle, Fairgrounds Middle and Pennichuck Middle Schools. The education for the students of Nashua at each of the three middle schools.

As phase I of the project, the Joint Special School Building Committee (JSSBC) hired an architect, Harriman of Portland, Maine, and a construction manager, Harvey Construction of Bedford, New Hampshire to evaluate whether it would be more cost-effective to renovate the current Elm Street Middle School or build a new middle school on property the City of Nashua owns in the south part of Nashua.

The additional focus of the project will be to remove portable classrooms currently used at two middle schools, which were installed some 20 years ago as a temporary measure to relieve overcrowding and have never been removed. These temporary portable classrooms are very tired and reaching the very end of useful life. We are also looking to provide improvements required to allow the schools to easily handle 800 students. Our goal is to balance three middle school

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Of primary interest during this first phase of the project is the evaluation of renovating Elm Street Middle School versus building a new middle school on City owned land in south Nashua. I have included a picture of the possible site below:

This site shown above off Medallion Court was set aside for a new school some 20-plus years ago

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renovations are underway. Additional portable classrooms will need to be installed on the front lawn, shifting students to dedicated, albeit temporary classrooms while construction is underway. Alternatively, if we build a new school, it will be approximately a two-year project because current students could remain at Elm Street until the new school was completed.

Some of the challenges of possibly renovating Elm Street are:

Energy costs: Today middle schools are required to have R-18 insulation in the walls. Elm Street currently has a value of R-2. If we do all we can to insulate Elm Street, we might get up to an R-11 value. In addition, the mechanical systems are very old and inefficient and marginally effective.

The heating and ventilation is very old, with many components dating back to the original construction in the 1930s. Any renovations will definitely be expensive.

Middle school requirements today call for larger classrooms than are currently in the school.

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