

December 9, 2022

Dear Wallingford Parents/Guardians, Staff and Community Members:

As recommended in the Wallingford Plan of Conservation and Development, Wallingford Public Schools has participated in a facility study to develop options regarding the future of the district's twelve school buildings. This study included a review of enrollment projections, capacity/utilization analyses, and the development of scenarios regarding the future use of existing school and Board of Education facilities. The Board is now seeking questions and feedback from the public to aid in the planning for the future of our school facilities.

Responses will be collected through the end of the day on ***January 6, 2023.***

Background:

Over the past several months, the Board of Education has worked with consultants to explore various options for our elementary, middle, and high schools. These consultants provided enrollment and school utilization projections, as well as other technical analyses needed to complete a study of this magnitude. In addition, discussions held with stakeholders throughout the community have yielded valuable information and guidance to assist the Board in developing long-term strategies related to our school buildings. These discussions and analyses have uncovered an array of issues that include, but are not limited to:

- **Enrollment:** Student enrollment, grades preschool - grade 12, declined by 964 students (-15.4%) over the last 10 years and is projected to continue to decrease over the next 5-10 years.
- **Current educational practices:** Our school buildings are 40-60 years old. They were not designed for 21st-century teaching methods, which include more collaborative, multi-disciplinary, student-centered, and project-based learning all of which require a significantly greater reliance on technology.
- **Programming:** Current space limitations have inhibited the adoption and/or expansion of specific instructional programs for which there is demonstrated student interest.
- **Funding:** The district has been denied educational grants due to a lack of appropriate space to house equipment, materials, and other investments. In addition, our aging facilities challenge our ability to address increasing budgetary pressure to operate our schools as efficiently as possible.
- **Security:** Buildings constructed 40-60 years ago were not designed to address today's security concerns.
- **Other:** Nearby communities have invested heavily in their school facilities. In doing so, they have enhanced their ability to maintain positive, public perceptions regarding the quality of education received in their schools. This, in turn, supports real estate values and increased economic development.

Please click [here](#) to view the “All Schools Facility Study Presentation - October 24, 2022.”
More information on the [study](#) is available on the district’s website.

Please continue to the next section to submit your questions and/or feedback [here](#) related to this study. We truly appreciate your input regarding this very important work.

Please click [here](#) to view the flyer.

Sincerely,

Danielle

Danielle Bellizzi
Superintendent of Schools