

## Winnisquam Future 2022

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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This document is designed to answer frequently asked questions as they come up related to Winnisquam Future 2022. If you have a question to ask, please use our [Google Form](#) (electronic) or send in a note. All questions will be considered by the committee before a response is posted/sent.

Future of Our Elementary - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)	
<b>Question:</b> On the website and FACT sheet, “security concerns” is mentioned. Please describe these concerns.	<b>Answer:</b> Security Concerns refers to a desire by the district to continue to look for the best materials and practices for ensuring all community members are safe and secure while on school property, particularly while inside one of our district buildings. These security upgrades include improved secure entrances, cameras and camera recording equipment, glass that resists breaking, etc. All security measures will be aligned to best practices and will ensure enhanced safety and security for our children, employees, and visitors in all four remaining buildings.
<b>Question:</b> Can't we simply install modular or portable classrooms where and when needed?	<b>Answer:</b> Yes, the taxpayers and or school board could decide to utilize modular or portable classrooms at USS and SCS as space becomes an issue. To lease, a typical 2 classroom portable unit will cost around \$10,000-15,000 for the first year (plus delivery and setup) and then as much as \$6000 every year thereafter. We have not done an official quote with anyone, simply an estimate based on industry standards. Please keep in mind that beyond a dollar estimate, there is the added cost of students traveling outside to get between buildings, leading to safety and security concerns, not to mention taking up valuable land at two properties without a lot of available/open land.
<b>Question:</b> Why can't classrooms have more students? How is education different?	<b>Answer:</b> For the past 30 years (or more) education has been moving away from direct instruction with students in straight rows sitting quietly listening. More and more, education is moving in the direction of inclusion, collaboration, problem solving and application all guided through a competency and work habit completion process. This means everyone is educated together, that students are taught to work together through small groups to solve challenging problems using real world applications and skills, and that all ideas and skills are applied through hands-on activities with clearly defined outcomes provided. This system is designed around how learning and work occur for the majority of citizens in their lives after public education. All of these principles require fewer students in each room so that they have the space and materials necessary to learn in this ever increasing complex and changing world.
<b>Question:</b> How will this plan affect bus ratios and where students go?	<b>Answer:</b> At this time, we do not anticipate any changes to bus ratios or bus routes for elementary except potentially shorter runs as the buses will no longer be required to travel to two schools as part of their runs. One stop should reduce travel times for students on those buses. We could see some additional students and times for the MS bus run with an additional grade added to the bus.

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<b>Question:</b> Could you explain the useful life of Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing (MEP)?	<b>Answer:</b> All Mechanical, electrical and plumbing (MEP) systems are designed to last many years, however, not forever. The useful life refers to how long these systems are expected to operate before they stop being useful to the building and its occupants. The systems at Union Sanborn School (USS) have been in operation for many years. At some point in the near future, many of these systems will need to have significant maintenance including the replacement of many components. MEP is one of the most expensive and complex aspects of any physical structure and will require significant investment to upgrade and replace.
<b>Question:</b> Will taxpayers have a chance to ask questions, participate in discussions and vote?	<b>Answer:</b> Absolutely. Opportunities to participate and ask questions have been and will continue to be spread throughout the year. To see a schedule of opportunities, please <a href="#">click here</a> . As for voting, the bond vote for taxpayers will occur at the district's annual meeting in March 2022.
<b>Question:</b> What will happen to the Union Sanborn School (USS) Building if the district moves forward with this plan?	<b>Answer:</b> There are several options that have been discussed. Rent the building to other organizations; sell the building to an interested buyer; remove the building and sell the land; A combination of selling part and continuing to utilize part; mothballing the building until a clear path emerges; and more. The future of the building will most likely be a conversation if/when it becomes empty.
<b>Question:</b> Are all day kindergarten (K) or an expanded preschool program (Pre K) driving this decision?	<b>Answer:</b> No. All day K and Pre K are both important conversations that come up regularly in this district, but to date, the community has voted to not expand the programs. Our goals are listed on the <a href="#">FACT Sheet</a> and <a href="#">website</a> and are the driving factors for what is being proposed. It is important to note that one of our goals is to, "Ensure alterations or new construction contains space for future programming and enrollment." This could include Full Day K or expanded Pre K, but that would be up to the Board and taxpayers to determine. <i>(We are one of the 13 School Administrative Units who do not offer full day K. 90 SAU's do offer full day K)</i>
<b>Question:</b> Will this option save money / reduce costs on our tax bill?	<b>Answer:</b> It is hard to say with certainty at this time. The cost of items continues to go up, the state continues to reduce its contribution to local education and more all affect tax rates. We do anticipate the closing of USS and associated reduction of annual operating/capital expenses could result in a savings for taxpayers, but only time will truly tell that tale..