

**EXPLANATORY TEXT REGARDING  
REFERENDUM TO CONSTRUCT AN  
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

This referendum was originated by the action of the Rocky Hill Board of Education in authorizing its school administration to develop educational specifications for the construction of a new intermediate school. This new school would be serving students in grades four and five, at the site of the former Dr. Oran A. Moser Elementary School. Moser was built in 1924 and has been vacant since September, 2011 after the Board of Education decided to discontinue using the facility as a school by transferring kindergarten through second grade students to Stevens Elementary School.

The student population in the town’s two existing K-5 schools, Stevens Elementary and West Hill Elementary, has exceeded their design capacity. Currently, Stevens School uses seven portable classrooms and West Hill School is using seven bringing the total number of portable classrooms in the school district to fourteen. The construction of a new intermediate school would enable the Board of Education to eliminate the need for these temporary structures. Once the new school is built, the Board would convert its two K-5 elementary schools to K-3 schools. The goal is to complete the construction and open the new intermediate school in the fall of 2019.

This building project falls under the long-range plan of the Town of Rocky Hill to expand its facilities to accommodate the increasing size of the student population.

**PROJECTED STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND  
SPACE REQUIREMENT**

In accordance with enrollment projections from the New England School Development Council (NESDEC), the educational specifications of the proposed new elementary school have been drafted to accommodate a peak enrollment of 582 students in school year 2020-2021. The school district continues to experience student growth with overcrowding in its two, K-5 elementary schools, Stevens Elementary and West Hill Elementary. Overcrowding will remain in the foreseeable future until the new building is opened. As addressed previously, the new school is expected to serve a total of 582 students – with 286 students in Grade 4 and 296 students in Grade 5. The programmatic square footage required for the student enrollment is noted below:

<b>Program Spaces</b>	<b>Building Square Footage</b>
20 General Classrooms	18,000
6 General/STEM Classrooms	7,200
Administration (principal, vice-principal, secretarial staff, conference room, storage)	2,500

Student Support Spaces (social worker, speech, psychologist and others)	1,500
Resource Rooms (Special education, literacy, numeracy, shared tutorial, and teacher work room)	3,500
Art/Music (General, band, choral/practice rooms/storage)	5,300
Gymnasium (including student lockers, showers and offices)	9,000
Cafetorium (combined cafeteria and auditorium)	4,250
Kitchen and Servery	1,500
Nursing Area	550
Library/Media Center (including computer lab)	2,750
Building Support (toilets/circulation/MDF/IDF, Boiler Room)	23,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>79,150</b>

## **SITE DEVELOPMENT**

This school project may need a site of up to 14 acres to accommodate the Rocky Hill Intermediate School with an expected enrollment of 582 students. The Town and the Board of Education has identified the site of the former Oran D. Moser School as an appropriate location for the new intermediate school. The existing parcel of land encompasses approximately 10.5 acres. Adjacent parcels encompassing approximately 3.2 acres have been identified as well. During the design and selection of the site, the following criteria will be evaluated:

### **Criteria for Demolition of Existing Moser Building**

Abatement of hazardous materials and complete removal of entire existing building.

### **Athletic and Playing Fields**

A soccer/lacrosse field and a baseball/softball field are to be provided for both student and community use. The school also requires an age appropriate playground and an asphalt/bitumen, full-sized outdoor basketball court with regulation markings and six backboards/basket fixtures.

## **OVERALL INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN**

The common focus is to assess each child's level of development upon entering Grade 4 and to design language arts, science, social studies and mathematical programs that meet students' needs to ensure success. The goal of the school is to have every child demonstrating academic success by the end of Grade 5.

## **General Purpose Classroom Design and Layout**

Twenty-six classrooms are to be included, six of which will be outfitted for integrating science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Classrooms are to be of sufficient size to accommodate 22-24 students, a teaching station, file cabinets, and furniture inclusive of desks and chairs. Instructional whiteboards, one of which is to be digitally interactive, will be located on at least two walls in each classroom. Also included should be lockable storage for teachers' personal items, storage shelves for books, and tack boards for notices. The general purpose classrooms should be approximately 900 sq. ft. and be designed to allow flexibility for different teaching/learning styles such as group work and independent study. STEM classrooms are slightly larger and should be approximately 1,200 sq. ft. to accommodate additional science workstations. All classrooms within the school will have similar instructional equipment and a configuration layout as follows:

The front and back walls of the rooms will serve as teacher/student presentation areas. Teacher stations will be located in the front of the classroom and will have the following components: computer, document camera, projection screen and/or interactive whiteboard with the required support equipment, LCD projector, and touch-screen control monitor panel.

The location and configuration of classroom educational and technology equipment will be consistent for all classrooms to allow faculty ease and confidence in their use. Instructional computers in the teacher offices should be similar to those in the classrooms. The similarity of the computers throughout the school provides uniformity in faculty and student use while reducing maintenance costs.

## **PROJECT BUDGET**

The projected costs of the Intermediate School is \$48.35 million. Funding would be provided from an expected \$17.25 million State Grant and an estimated \$31.1 million from Town issued twenty (20) year general obligation bonds.

## **TAX IMPACT**

Based on the October 2015 Grand List and a three percent (3%) interest rate on the bonds, this school project would increase the mill rate by 1.23 mills.

### **Homeowners Impact:**

House Assessment at \$100,000  
Increase in Taxes = \$123.00 a Year (or  
\$10.25 a Month)