

S u p e r i n t e n d e n t M e m o r a n d u m

To: Board of Selectmen
From: Dr. Toni Jones
Date: May 10, 2018
Re: Mill Hill Information

1. Is there an opinion of the school size (378, 461 or 504) from the school administration? What support do you have for that recommendation?

The school administration and BoE support 504. The utilization charts in the memo dated April 18, 2018 support the rationale that the school system needs additional space on the southwest quadrant of the district.

By 2027-2028 Riverfield, Dwight, and Sherman are all projected to be between 92-104% capacity. If Mill Hill is expanded, there will be some room for movement to alleviate overcrowding. Please see the Mill Hill Memo dated April 18, 2018.

2. Is there an acceptable BoE/school administration Educational Specification for each school size?

Ed Specs follow a standard format and are prepared individually for each school. They always include:

- Program deficiencies unique to that school based on existing program spaces from the date of last renovation and current needs as defined in a 2010 MGT report on each school.
- Health and Safety improvements such as roof, HVAC, fire suppressions, etc.
- Enrollment needs – which vary from school to school.
- The Ed Spec in regards to additional “small” spaces does not change within the range of small school sizes we have in Fairfield. If we were advocating for a large school of 700 students or more there would be an increase in small spaces. APR’s are expanded by recapturing the stage. Each school makes that adjustment work to the best of its ability, given expansion limitations.

3. A detailed classroom-to-classroom comparison of current Mill Hill regular classrooms to each proposal. What is the net being added per each proposal?

Enrollment needs from year to year dictate the use of general education classrooms and specialized education program spaces.

General Education Classrooms (21 students in each classroom on average)

378	18
441	21
504	24

No change for small classroom requirements, stage expansion in the gym area, or the expansion of the APR. The general education classrooms are the only change in construction for a 378, 441, or 504 student capacity project.

4. Obviously, nobody knows exactly what town-wide space issues we will have to solve in 2-3 years, or what will be the current root cause of those issues... but, in general, what is the district plan and how does this recommendation fit into that solution?

The FPS Facilities Plan outlines the “space” (facility) issues in reasonable detail and addresses the long-range needs of our school system through 2025-26. There are several variations, and once Holland Hill and Mill Hill are complete, the BoE will examine the current enrollment status, utilization capacities, and program needs to determine the best way to resolve overcrowding issues.

5. What level of funding is required today to move ahead with the project?

\$1.5M will allow the Building Committee to present the level of detail planning that is required to make the best-informed decision for Mill Hill School. This is similar to the level of detail provided for the Riverfield School and Holland Hill School project planning.

6. If the planning moves forward per the BOF bonding resolution, how much capital would we need to accomplish those planning goals?

\$ 1.5M for planning. The addition of language to look at 378, 441, and 504 will not require additional funding. Overall, the Waterfall chart currently has \$20,250,000 as the budgeted amount for this project's total costs, which includes the \$1.5M.

7. Is the BOE/administration supportive of the current bonding resolution? Why, why not?

The BOE has expressed support at each public hearing beginning with the January, 2018 BOS meeting. The BOE recommends a 24 classroom, 504 seat elementary school design as the best choice, and has indicated that the Building Committee should outline a cost for this design. If the capital cost estimates are determined to be higher than anticipated, the BOE would be willing to consider adjusting the educational specifications to comply with funding levels acceptable to the Town of Fairfield. That remains the BOE/administration position.

The BOS approved bond resolution is acceptable.

The BOF approved bond resolution is also acceptable, as it asks the Building Committee to explore all options, inclusive of a 24 classroom, 504-seat capacity school.