

Cape Schools Open Minds and Open Doors

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Cape Elizabeth School District Needs Assessment Committee

Introduction

During the 2017-2018 school year, the need to address the district's aging school buildings and maximize student safety and learning became obvious. A full Facilities Study, by Colby Company, was included in the original draft of the FY19 School Board budget. This study intended to provide not only a prioritized list of needs, but detailed design plans which would most accurately estimate future costs and depth of scope. Due to state funding cuts and a wish for greater community participation in the process, the Facilities Study was *not* included in the final budget and moved to the next year's budget cycle. As a result, a Needs Assessment Committee has been formed.

Committee Structure

The Needs Assessment Committee will consist of an array of community members with and without children currently in the Cape Elizabeth schools; Administrators and/or school teachers from each of the three school buildings; 1- 3 students; the Cape Elizabeth Town Manager; 1-2 Town Councilors; the CESD Superintendent; and four School Board representatives. In addition, representatives from Colby Company will be in attendance at all meetings. The Superintendent will be the facilitator of all meetings and the School Board Chairwoman will be the notetaker.

Committee Charge

The committee will meet for a total of four meetings between November 7th and January 9th. Within these four meetings, the committee is charged with gathering information on structural and safety-related concerns of all three Cape Elizabeth school buildings; gathering input from all stakeholders; and providing feedback to Colby Company.

The ultimate charge of the committee will be to gather sufficient due diligence so that the cost of a thorough Needs Assessment Study can be determined and a recommendation can be made to the School Board at the beginning of the FY20 School Board Budget Cycle in January 2019.

Other Provisions

Upon the end of the fourth Needs Assessment Committee's meeting on January 9th, further participation by committee members will not be mandatory. However, to the extent that committee members are interested and available, a follow-up committee will need to be formed in order to: Communicate findings to the School Board and Town Council; and inform and educate community members.