

School Board Votes Not to Move Forward with CTE/High School Bond

During the January 7th School Board meeting, the Board voted 9-1 against recommending a warrant article to pursue renovations of the Career and Technical Education centers (CTE) and the high school. After detailed analysis, robust community feedback, and thoughtful conversations with select board representatives from across our district, we arrived at the decision that this was neither the right time nor the appropriate cost for this project.

Though this project is not advancing in its current form, a considerable amount of new information has been gained during this process. Over the past two years, the building committee has studied CTE facilities and programming across our state. We now have an accurate assessment of the current and future needs of our students and our community. We have also arrived at a much better understanding about the state of our aging buildings. Comprehensive structural and systems reviews, including electrical, plumbing, and HVAC, were completed for ConVal High School as well as for Great Brook School and South Meadow School. These will be highly relevant as we assess the needs of our district going forward.

Teachers do not teach in the same ways they did when our facilities were built more than two decades ago. Students learn differently as well. The need to modernize is real, and it will persist. Within the high school, there are security, regulatory, and compliance issues that command our attention. Moving forward, the school board and the building committee will take the good work that has been accomplished to date, along with our community's input, back to the drawing board and set out to reach these goals in a fiscally sustainable way.

We would like to acknowledge and extend our gratitude to all of those who worked to bring us to this point. The dedication to our students, district, and community exhibited by members of our building committee and specifically Heather McKillop, our high school principal, and Jen Kiley, our CTE director, has been exemplary. We would also like to thank every member of our community who participated in this process.

Sincerely,
The ConVal School Board