

Elementary School Building Project

Q and A #1

3/13/17

On February 15, the board of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) invited the Town of Rockland to partner with them to build a new elementary school. Eighty-six school districts applied for this needs-based program but only 24 were extended an invitation. We look forward to support from the community. Having recently rebuilt the Rogers Middle School and renovated Rockland High School, this project would provide Rockland children with state-of-the-art schools for decades to come.

Q: Why are we having a vote at town meeting?

A: We have been invited by the MSBA to partner with them to construct a new elementary school.

Q: What am I voting for?

A: You are voting to fund the feasibility study.

Q: What is the feasibility study?

A: This is a study that will look at the design, the location, and the costs of a new elementary school.

Q: How much will the Feasibility Study cost?

A: Estimated \$800,000 but the actual cost to the town would be \$336,000 (reimbursed at 58%).

Q: Will this affect our taxes?

A: No this will not raise taxes because the funds will come from a town appropriation. At a later date there will be a separate vote for the actual cost of building a school.

Q: Why do we need a new elementary school?

A: Our elementary schools are over 50 years old. Heating, electrical and plumbing systems are increasingly difficult to maintain and afford and the classrooms are not up to modern standards.

Q: Which school would be replaced?

A: The vision of the school district is to build one large elementary school to replace the Memorial Park Elementary School and the Jefferson Elementary School and house all grade 1-4 students district-wide.

Q: What would happen to the Esten School?

A: The Esten Elementary School would become an early childhood center housing pre-school and kindergarten.

Q: Where will the new school be located?

A: The architects will look at all possible locations during the feasibility study.

Questions? Contact Dr. Alan Cron at acron@rocklandschools.org or call 781-878-1483