**September 27th PTA Renovation Meeting**

*First Speaker -Dr. Anton:*

**History of Project**

* About 20 years ago a master plan was created that would renovate/replace (as appropriate) all 6 elementary schools. State used to reimburse up to 60% of cost to build a new school. That funding is no longer available.
* State provides supplementary funding (at a much lower level) in emergency situations like Estabrooke but Bowman and Bridge are not eligible for State reimbursement.
* Renovation project looks to keep both schools functional for the next 20-25 years
* Original project would’ve cost $14 million to keep schools in decent condition for 10 years. The following is a list of necessary items to keep a comfortable and functional environment in both schools for 10 years:
	+ New Roof – Bowman only
	+ New HVAC system
	+ New Windows
	+ Bathroom Upgrades
* In addition, to maintain a comfortable and functional environment for 20-25 years, the following upgrades were added to the list:
	+ More efficient HVAC system with partial cooling-system that helps keep humidity levels down
	+ Relocate school office to entrance of each building to allow for better security.
	+ Update wiring in all classrooms
	+ Narrowing of front hallway to add more small- group instruction space.
	+ Addition of a boiler room
	+ Repairing portable classrooms
	+ Addition of 4 new classrooms to handle large student population
	+ Reconfiguring of space to accommodate the need for small group teaching space.
* Architects and engineers are working to get accurate cost estimate to bring to Town Meeting.
* If project goes forward, construction will happen over the next few years and if funding is secured, will over April vacation 2012. Workers will work evenings and weekends so as not to disrupt the school day.
* Construction schedule is as follows:
	+ *April 2012* – demolition of ceilings in corridors, installation of smoke detectors
	+ *June- August* *(Summer Vacation)* –k-2 wing would get new HVAC system installed, new ceilings, lights, bathroom upgrades.
	+ *August-October* – Construction will happen at night and on weekends on center part of buildings – administrative areas.
	+ *November – February* – renovation of part of library, computer lab, and copy machine room. The gymnasium will be used for music, physical education and art.
	+ Other specialists will be relocated to the Art room, a more central location.
	+ *June –August 2013* – second half of building will be renovated.
	+ *Fall of 2013* – building slated for completion.

*Second Speaker -Pat Goddard – Director of Facilities*

* Removal of caulk will be done while school is not in session. No PCB’s at Bowman or Bridge.
* Air quality monitoring will be done while school is in session. Workers will clean up at end of each shift.
* Town employees (including a clerk of works) will be overseeing contractors and air quality monitors will be placed in the school during construction.

What changes will be made to bring school buildings up to date and up to code?

* Handicap accessible
* Enlarge bathrooms
* Install sprinkler systems
* Install alarms
* Upgrade P/A system and phone system
* Install natural gas high efficiency boilers
* Install quiet ventilators beneath windows- fin tube ventilation
* Add roof-top ventilation units
* New windows, double-hung, with screens
* New roof at Bowman only
* New floors at Bridge only
* New generator at Bridge (Bowman got a new one last year)

If bids come back too high, we have bid alternates to bring the cost of the project down. Windows would be deducted from project making it possible to move forward.

Windows are something we may be able to do in the future and submit request for state funding through the Green Repair Program.

Next Steps:

* October 4th – School Committee vote to ask the Selectmen to put the Bridge and Bowman project on the warrant for a Special Town Meeting.
* November 14th – Town meeting discussion and vote whether to appropriate funds
* January 9th or 23rd – Possible dates for the Debt Exclusion vote
	+ Important to note that a Debt Exclusion is different from an override. Override is permanent increase to taxes. Debt Exclusion is only added to taxpayers tax bill for the life of the bond(s) issued and retires over time.
* The ballot will have 2 or maybe 3 questions:
1. Allocate approximately $22 million for Bridge and Bowman renovation
2. Rebuild Estabrooke
3. Upgrade roads in Estabrooke area (has to happen in order to rebuild)

Questions 2 and 3 may be combined into one question. That issue and the exact amount for the Bridge and Bowman renovation are still to be determined.

We need everyone to get the word out. This renovation has to be approved at Town Meeting
(a 2/3rds vote is required) then the project will have to be approved in the form of a town-wide debt exclusion vote to fund the renovations. If either the Town Meeting or the debt exclusion votes fail, the schools get nothing. There is no alternate source of funding available at this time.