

# MOVING FORWARD WITH THE GROTON SCHOOLS 20/20 PLAN

## SETTING A COURSE FOR GROTON'S EDUCATIONAL FUTURE

The Groton 20/20 plan is a blueprint for the educational future of our community for decades to come. It is a smart, efficient, long-term solution; to address our school infrastructure needs, enhance education and opportunities for all our students and strengthen our entire community.

The foundation of the plan is a state-of-the-art middle school for all 6th–8th grade students. The school will be built in close proximity to the high school, creating a campus like environment and providing opportunities for all students to achieve their fullest potential. Separate facilities, however, will ensure age appropriate interactions and a small school culture will be fostered. The district is also pursuing an International Baccalaureate middle years program and middle school magnet pathways.

Upon completion of the new middle school, our current middle schools will be renovated into magnet elementary schools, expanding our already successful themed intra-district magnet school choice options.

The Groton 20/20 Plan upgrades our aging facilities, increases educational excellence, ensures opportunities for our students, complies with state mandates and delivers cost saving and classroom efficiencies.



*A Smart Investment For Our Students, Schools, and Community*

### WHY ARE WE GOING TO DO THIS?

#### IMPROVE EDUCATION

Education quality is enhanced with modern facilities, technology, and competitive and engaging curricular options

#### ACHIEVE EQUITY

Equal opportunities and balance will be achieved with one middle school and expanded magnet schools

#### DELIVER EFFICIENCY

Classroom and building efficiencies and cost savings are realized by upgrading and reducing facilities

#### Three Long Term Problems. One Solution!

Research links school facility upgrades to positive impacts for students, schools and the entire community including:

**academic gains, improved attendance, teacher satisfaction and retention, increased property values, and health and environmental benefits.**

### WHAT IS THE PLAN?

- **BUILD** one new middle school near the high school creating a campus like environment to be completed by 2020.
- **RENOVATE** the existing middle schools into magnet elementary schools expanding school and curricular choice.
- **CLOSE** three 60+ year old schools in need of costly repairs and renovation and eliminate portables. Pleasant Valley Elementary School, will close at the end of the current school year and the district is working on a plan to ensure a smooth transition for students. Claude Chester and S.B. Butler Elementary Schools will close upon completion of the middle school renovations.

### HOW ARE WE GOING TO DO IT?

- The Groton community took the monumental step of investing in our schools with approval of the plan on Election Day 2016. As a result the project is now on the school construction priority list with the state of Connecticut.
- The 2020 Plan is estimated to cost \$184.5 million and will be funded by the state and taxpayers
- The estimated cost to Groton taxpayers will be \$84 million, after anticipated reimbursement from the state. Due to having a school out of racial balance, Groton qualifies for a diversity grant to comply with state mandates.