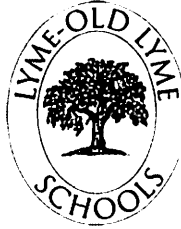


LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Regional School District #18

A Private School Experience



in a Public School Setting

Special District Meeting

September 7, 2022

Board Present: Steven Wilson, Chair; Martha Shoemaker, Vice Chair; Mary Powell St. Louis, Treasurer; Suzanne Thompson, Secretary; Laura Dean-Frazier; Anna James; Jason Kemp; Jennifer Miller; Christopher Staab

Administration Present: Ian Neviaser, Superintendent of Schools; Mark Ambruso, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School; Michelle Dean, Director of Curriculum; Kelly Enoch, Principal of Mile Creek School; Allison Hine, Principal of Lyme Consolidated School; Holly McCalla, Business Manager; Jeanne Manfredi, Assistant Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme High School; Ron Turner, Director of Facilities & Technology; Noah Ventola, Assistant Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School; James Wygonik, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme High School

Others Present: Jack Collins, Moderator

A special District Meeting of Regional School District #18 was held in the Board of Education Conference Room at Center School on September 7, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wilson. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Secretary of the Board of Education read the Notice of the Meeting and stated that said Notice, signed by the Chairperson of the Board of Education, had been posted on the District's public signpost on September 1, 2022 and that a copy thereof had been published in *The Day*, a newspaper published or having a general circulation in the District, in its issue of September 2, 2022.

*NOTICE: The legal voters of Regional School District #18 are hereby warned that a Special District Meeting will be held in the Board of Education Conference Room at Center School, 49 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, on September 7, 2022 at 6:00 o'clock P.M. for the following purpose:
To hold a public hearing on the proposed resolution entitled "Resolution Appropriating*

49 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, Connecticut 06371

T: 860-434-7238 F: 860-434-9959 E: neviaseri@region18.org www.region18.org

\$57,555,000 For The Planning, Design, Demolition, Construction, Renovation, Equipping And Furnishing Of Mile Creek School, Center School, Lyme Consolidated School, And Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School And Related Costs And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$57,555,000 Bonds Of The District To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose."

Following the Special District Meeting, the Regional School District #18 Board of Education will meet to vote on said resolution and to set the date for the referendum to be held in each of the Towns of Lyme and Old Lyme for approval or disapproval of said resolution.

Copies of said proposed bond resolution are on file and open to public inspection in the offices of the Town Clerks of the Towns of Lyme and Old Lyme, respectively, and in the offices of the District Board of Education.

MOTION: Mrs. Shoemaker made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Miller, to waive the full reading of the resolution as copies were made available for the public. A copy of the full resolution is attached to these minutes for informational purposes.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Mr. Wilson called for nominations for a moderator for the public hearing.

MOTION: Mrs. Shoemaker made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. James, to nominate Jack Collins as moderator of the meeting. There were no further nominations.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Jack Collins declared open the public hearing on the proposed resolution. He asked that prepared statements that would be made under public comment be turned into the secretary for the Board (Jeanne DeLaura) either personally or via email at delauraj@region18.org.

Mr. Neviaser gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the bond resolution for the PreK-8 facilities project which included the following priorities:

1. End of Life HVAC Systems
2. Code Compliance
3. Safety and Security
4. Enrollment

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the potential schedule and the construction cost estimate for Option 3A (base scope work only for the Center School, Lyme Consolidated School and LOLMS; base scope and designated a "renovate as new" project for Mile Creek School.

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the potential cost to Regional School District #18 for Option 3A:

Total Project Budget	\$57,533,337
Estimated Reimbursement	\$ 9,777,775
Net Cost to RSD #18	\$47,755,562

Note: budgets include escalation for one year and construction phasing cost. Anticipated project design to start January 2023.

There is a potential for additional state reimbursement for the HVAC work.

Mr. Neviaser's presentation is attached to these minutes in its entirety for informational purposes.

Mr. Collins opened up the meeting for public comment.

**** Denotes that entire statement is attached to these minutes.**

****Steve Cinami, Old Lyme resident, read a lengthy statement listing the ten reasons why he felt this project should be stopped. He addressed the following subjects where he had the most concern: mechanical systems, air quality, price tag of project, safety and security considerations, home values, school building capacity, escalation costs, engineering reports, and the original request for proposal.**

****Kim Thompson, Old Lyme resident, read a statement in favor of the building project stressing the need for more space at the elementary level; she encouraged the Board as "stewards of this district...to move this building project to referendum and engage in educating the public on how essential this project is to maintaining the high quality schools that benefit all of our property values."**

****David Kelsey, Old Lyme resident, read a statement voicing concern over the proposed building project on the following four points:**

1. Process was flawed and should have "started with a disinterested engineering assessment of the schools."
2. Facilities Committee of the Board of Education should have been involved from day one and approved recommendations to the full Board prior to any Board action.
3. The Board must vote to recommend the approval of the project to the voters.
4. If the Board votes to go to referendum, the date should be November 8 (election day).

****Mercedes Alger read a statement on behalf of herself and Heather Fried as presidents of the teachers' union voicing support for the building project. Mrs. Alger highlighted various HVAC and space issues teachers encounter at the schools each day. They encouraged the Board to vote to send the building project plan to referendum.**

****Mona Colwell, Old Lyme resident, read a statement voicing concern over the \$58 million building project which she believes will increase taxes and burden many residents. She also questioned the need**

for 11 new classrooms at Mile Creek School when rooms could be utilized at Center School. She encouraged the Board to be more united and “have robust conversations about this....and be fair to the taxpayers of Old Lyme and Lyme.”

Nila Kaczor, Elementary Talented and Gifted Teacher, read a statement on behalf of **Jennifer Pitman, Art Teacher at Mile Creek School, who was unable to attend the meeting in person. In her statement, Mrs. Pitman addressed the poor condition of the HVAC system and noise pollution at Mile Creek School noting that “it is impossible to maintain a reasonable temperature in the room on hot days” and “to teach or learn in the art room, one must contend with noise akin to having a 1970’s era dishwasher operating in the room at all times.”

**Nila Kaczor read a statement addressing some of the work conditions (noise pollution and overcrowding) which make it difficult to create and maintain a healthy work environment for students of all ability levels. She asked that the Board “consider supporting the investment in our facilities so it can have a more positive impact on our students.”

**Francesca Fusaro, 5th Grade Teacher at Mile Creek School, read a statement sharing concerns of the Mile Creek special education and SRBI departments which described the lack of space to service the needs of some of their most vulnerable students. She also addressed the noise issue caused by the current HVAC system and window air conditioning units. Mrs. Fusaro stated that “the Special Education and SRBI departments, as well as all classroom teachers who students receive these services, ask that tonight, you vote yes on bringing this renovation budget to referendum so that we can provide quality education and services to our students.”

Meghan Anderson, an Old Lyme resident, recommended moving the kindergarten class to Center School vs. adding an entire wing to Mile Creek School. She questioned why this idea was not researched more fully with firm numbers given to the Board. It was noted by Mr. Neviasser that one of the original options considered by the Board was to build a Central Office wing at LOLMS and move kindergarten to Center School. Some of the issues with that option included the inability to also move the Lyme School kindergarten class to Center School. Jason Kemp referred to a presentation from the January 5, 2022 Board of Education meeting in which the Board was presented with “Option Two” which included moving the kindergarten to Center School which had an estimated project cost of \$67.5M. Ms. Miller noted that this option was also presented and discussed at the November 3 Board meeting. Mrs. Shoemaker noted that the high school students housed and serviced at Center School would also be displaced under this option.

**Julia Tackett, Music Teacher at Mile Creek School, read a statement addressing her concerns over the possibility of music and art instruction losing their classroom space noting that “if we are forced to lose our designated music and/or art room, there would be a lasting, negative effect on the exemplary programs that we are so proud of in Region 18.” She also spoke to how the HVAC system greatly impacts the ability of many students to focus and learn. She asked that this issue be moved to referendum so that

“we can move forward with renovations as soon as possible.”

Randy Nixon, an Old Lyme resident, questioned how many Board of Ed members have construction experience. He concurred with a previous comment made by David Kelsey that the process behind the building project was flawed and that the Facilities Committee needed to be more involved with making recommendations to the Board. Mr. Nixon cited his construction and engineering experience and recommended that the Board reconsider the process and not move so hastily. Mr. Neviasser noted that the Facilities Committee has been involved in discussions on this project since 2019; he described the request for proposal process and scope of work development that took place during this time and that it was their assumption that a building committee would be formed to implement the project and adjust the scope as necessary.

There was Board discussion on whether there was a need to hire a disinterested third party to review the project as suggested by Chairman Wilson.

Judith Reed, an Old Lyme resident, voiced concern over the inconsistent process by noting that the membership of the Board of Ed and Facilities Committee has changed since 2019. Mr. Neviasser noted that four current Board of Ed members sit on the Facilities Committee (one new) and four new Board of Ed members were elected in the November elections.

Marianne DeBruyn, Old Lyme resident and Special Ed Teacher at Mile Creek School, questioned why the new Board members did not educate themselves on the facilities plan before they ran for the Board. She voiced concern that the renovations would not occur because they haven't done their job. She reminded the Board that they were elected to help the students and she questioned their need for more time. Mr. Wilson addressed the time it takes new Board members to become acclimated to the position and that they are not privy to information until they are elected.

****Michele Tackett, Elementary Spanish Teacher, read a statement which addressed the loss of educational space for teaching Spanish (currently traveling with a cart to all grade 1-5 classrooms to provide instruction in two buildings). Mrs. Tackett also talked about the challenges with the current HVAC systems and the distractions it causes to learning.**

Tammy Hinckley, Old Lyme resident, stated that she was onboard with enhancing the students' learning experience and environment but agreed that the Board should have a disinterested third party come and do a final assessment as they would have a greater chance of having the referendum pass and would assure the community that they have done their homework.

David Kelsey, Old Lyme resident, recommended that the Board hire a third party to assess the buildings who was not going to eventually bid on the project. He voiced concern that the Board hired a firm which is going to bid on the project.

Anna Reiter, Old Lyme resident, (via Zoom) voiced her full support for the building project expenditure citing the updates that the schools needed. Noting that the Board is elected to make this kind of decision, she asked that they listen to the staff who use these spaces on a daily basis.

Rebecca Tate, 4th grade Teacher at Mile Creek School and Old Lyme resident, read a statement addressing the heat issues in her classroom. She asked the Board to move this issue to referendum, and she questioned how long they were going to wait until a decision would be made.

Rebecca Tate read a statement from **Diana Marchese, library media specialist at Mile Creek School, who could not personally attend the meeting, which addressed the effects of humidity on the books in the library and the issues she and the students face each day with the HVAC system. She also voiced concern over the lack of sprinklers in the library and students with the greatest needs working in areas that lack confidentiality and privacy.

Susan Whritner, 5th grade teacher at Mile Creek School, read a statement which voiced her concerns over the heat and space issues at Mile Creek School.

**Paul Murphy, physical ed teacher at Mile Creek School, read a statement citing the HVAC issues he and the students encounter daily. He also voiced his support for those staff members who teach in hallways and he added “how difficult it is to get students to focus on a task when we can’t provide them with a space for them to excel.”

Kim Davis, a resident of Old Lyme and an educator who has experience with a school building project, described how her child benefitted from the renovations at the high school. She stated that she did not believe \$40 million on four buildings was a high price to pay to alleviate the heat and space issues that the teachers are describing. She supported going to referendum with the plan noting that, if passed, the Board would have a building committee to oversee the efficiency in the process.

Steve Cinami, Old Lyme resident, referred to a report that stated that the buildings were well maintained and in good condition. He thought this important because he didn’t want the community to believe that the buildings were falling down. Mr. Cinami, recognizing that there is a problem with the heating and ventilation, recommended that new boilers be purchased and the Board seek other ventilation options that are offered at a more economical cost. He voiced concern that the Board only looked at options offered by those who would eventually be bidding on the work.

Two other statements were submitted to the Board secretary (but not read) by Kristen Hatchel, 1st grade teacher at Mile Creek School, and Susan Oliver, 2nd grade teacher at Mile Creek School, both addressing the heat issues in their classrooms. Their statements are attached to these minutes for informational purposes.

There being no further comments by the public, Chairman Wilson declared the public hearing and the Special District Meeting on said proposed resolution closed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m. upon a motion by Mrs. Shoemaker and a second by Dr. Powell St. Louis.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Thompson, Secretary

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$57,555,000 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, DEMOLITION, CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, EQUIPPING AND FURNISHING OF MILE CREEK SCHOOL, CENTER SCHOOL, LYME CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL, AND LYME-OLD LYME MIDDLE SCHOOL AND RELATED COSTS AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$57,555,000 BONDS OF THE DISTRICT TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE

RESOLVED:

Section 1. The sum of \$57,555,000 is hereby appropriated by Regional School District No. 18, Connecticut (the "District") for (1) the planning, design, demolition, construction, renovation, equipping and furnishing of Mile Creek School, including the addition of up to 14,000 square feet for up to eleven (11) new classrooms, and related costs, including, but not limited to, expenses related to architectural and advisory services, engineering, permitting, environmental and geological testing, heating, ventilation, air conditioning upgrades, ADA and other code compliance upgrades, security upgrades, and other infrastructure improvements, hazardous components abatement, demolition of portable classrooms, roofing, doors, frames and hardware, windows, flooring, painting, fire protection, plumbing, electrical upgrades, site work, furniture, fixtures, equipment, temporary parking and storage, relocation of students, and (2) the planning, design, demolition, construction, renovation, equipping and furnishing of Center School, Lyme Consolidated School, and Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School and related costs, including, but not limited to, expenses related to architectural and advisory services, engineering, permitting, environmental and geological testing, heating, ventilation, air conditioning upgrades, ADA and other code compliance upgrades, security upgrades, and other infrastructure improvements, hazardous components abatement, demolition of portable classrooms, roofing, doors, frames and hardware, windows, flooring, painting, fire protection, plumbing, electrical upgrades, site work, furniture, fixtures, equipment, temporary parking and storage, relocation of students, and legal, consulting, advisory and administrative fees and expenses and costs of issuance related thereto, said appropriation being inclusive of any and all State and Federal grants-in-aid thereof, including State grants estimated at approximately \$9,775,000 (together, the "Projects").

Section 2. To meet said appropriation, \$57,555,000 bonds of the District or so much thereof as shall be necessary for such purpose shall be issued, maturing not later than the maximum maturity permitted by the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended from time to time (the "Connecticut General Statutes"). Said bonds may be issued in one or more series as determined by the Chairperson of the Board of Education ("District Chair") and the Treasurer of the Board of Education ("District Treasurer"), in the amount necessary to meet the District's share of the cost of the Projects determined after considering the estimated amount and timing of State and Federal grants-in-aid of the Projects, provided that the total amount of bonds to be issued shall not be less than an amount which will provide funds sufficient with other funds available for such purpose to pay the principal of and the interest on all temporary borrowings in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds of said bonds outstanding at the time of the issuance thereof, and to pay for the costs of issuance of such bonds. The bonds shall be executed in the name and on behalf of the District by the facsimile or manual signatures of the District Chair and the District Treasurer, bear the District seal or a facsimile thereof, be certified by a bank or trust company which bank or trust company may be designated as the paying agent and registrar and transfer agent, and be approved as to their legality by Robinson & Cole LLP, Attorneys-at-Law. The bonds shall be general obligations of the District and its member towns of Lyme and Old Lyme, Connecticut ("Member Towns") and each of the bonds shall recite that every requirement of law relating to its issue has been duly complied with, that such bond is within every debt and other limit prescribed by law, and that the full faith and credit of the District are pledged to the payment of the principal thereof and interest thereon. The aggregate principal amount of the bonds of each series to be issued, the annual installments of principal, redemption provisions, if any, the certifying, registrar and transfer agent and paying agent, the date, time of sale and issue, and other terms, details and particulars of such bonds,

including the approval of the rate or rates of interest shall be determined by the District Chair and District Treasurer in accordance with the Connecticut General Statutes.

Section 3. Said bonds shall be sold by the District Chair in a competitive offering or by negotiation, in his discretion. If sold in a competitive offering, the bonds shall be sold at not less than par and accrued interest on the basis of the lowest net or true interest cost to the District. A notice of sale or a summary thereof describing the bonds and setting forth the terms and conditions of the sale shall be published at least five days in advance of the sale in a recognized publication carrying municipal bond notices and devoted primarily to financial news and the subject of state and municipal bonds. If the bonds are sold by negotiation, provisions of the purchase agreement and the interest rate or rates shall be subject to the approval of the District Chair and District Treasurer.

Section 4. The District Treasurer is authorized to make temporary borrowings in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds of said bonds. Notes evidencing such borrowings shall be signed by the District Chair and District Treasurer, have the seal of the District affixed, be payable at a bank or trust company designated by the District Chair, be approved as to their legality by Robinson & Cole LLP, Attorneys-at-Law, of Hartford, Connecticut, and be certified by a bank or trust company designated by the District Chair pursuant to Section 7-373 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The notes shall be issued with maturity dates which comply with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes governing the issuance of such notes, as the same may be amended from time to time. The notes shall be general obligations of the District and its Member Towns and each of the notes shall recite that every requirement of law relating to its issue has been duly complied with, that such note is within every debt and other limit prescribed by law, and that the full faith and credit of the District are pledged to the payment of the principal thereof and the interest thereon. The net interest cost on such notes, including renewals thereof, and the expense of preparing, issuing and marketing, to the extent paid from the proceeds of such renewals or said bonds, shall be included as a cost of the Projects. Upon the sale of the bonds, the proceeds thereof, to the extent required, shall be applied forthwith to the payment of the principal of and the interest on any such notes then outstanding or shall be deposited with a bank or trust company in trust for such purpose.

Section 5. The District hereby expresses its official intent pursuant to Section 1.150-2 of the Federal Income Tax Regulations, Title 26 (the "Regulations"), to reimburse expenditures paid sixty days prior to and any time after the date of passage of this Resolution in the maximum amount of the Projects with the proceeds of bonds, notes, or other obligations ("Tax Exempt Obligations") authorized to be issued by the District. The Tax-Exempt Obligations shall be issued to reimburse such expenditures not later than 18 months after the later of the date of the expenditure or the substantial completion of the Projects, or such later date the Regulations may authorize. The District hereby certifies that the intention to reimburse as expressed herein is based upon its reasonable expectations as of this date. The District Treasurer or his/her designee is authorized to pay Project expenses in accordance herewith pending the issuance of the Tax-Exempt Obligations.

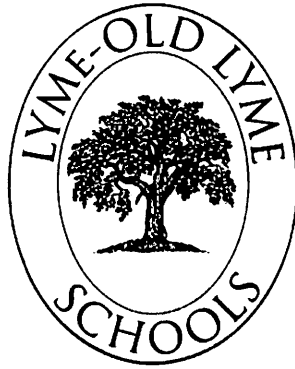
Section 6. The District Chair and District Treasurer are hereby authorized, on behalf of the District, to enter into agreements or otherwise covenant for the benefit of bondholders to provide information on an annual or other periodic basis to the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (the "MSRB") and to provide notices to the MSRB of material events as enumerated in Securities and Exchange Commission Exchange Act Rule 15c2-12, as amended, as may be necessary, appropriate or desirable to effect the sale of the bonds and notes authorized by this Resolution. Any agreements or representations to provide information to MSRB made prior hereto are hereby confirmed, ratified and approved.

Section 7. The District hereby authorizes the preparation, printing and dissemination of concise explanatory texts or other printed material with respect to the appropriation and the bond and Note authorization for the Project in accordance with Section 9-369b of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Section 8. The District Chair and District Treasurer, or either of them, are hereby authorized, on behalf of the District, to enter into any other agreements, instruments, documents and certificates,

including tax and investment agreements, for the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Resolution. The District Chair and District Treasurer, or either of them, are hereby authorized, on behalf of the District, to apply for and accept any and all Federal and State loans and or grants-in-aid of the Projects, to expend said funds in accordance with the terms hereof, and in connection therewith to contract in the name of the District with engineers, contractors and others.

Section 9. The District Chair and District Treasurer, or either of them, are hereby authorized in the name and on behalf of the District to apply to the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services and other agencies for any and all State grants-in-aid of the Projects described in Section 1.



**Bond
Resolution
Public Hearing
September 7,
2022**

Bond Resolution

- The resolution entitled "Resolution Appropriating \$57,555,000 For The Planning, Design, Demolition, Construction, Renovation, Equipping And Furnishing Of Mile Creek School, Center School, Lyme Consolidated School, And Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School And Related Costs And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$57,555,000 Bonds Of The District To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose", will be voted on tonight.

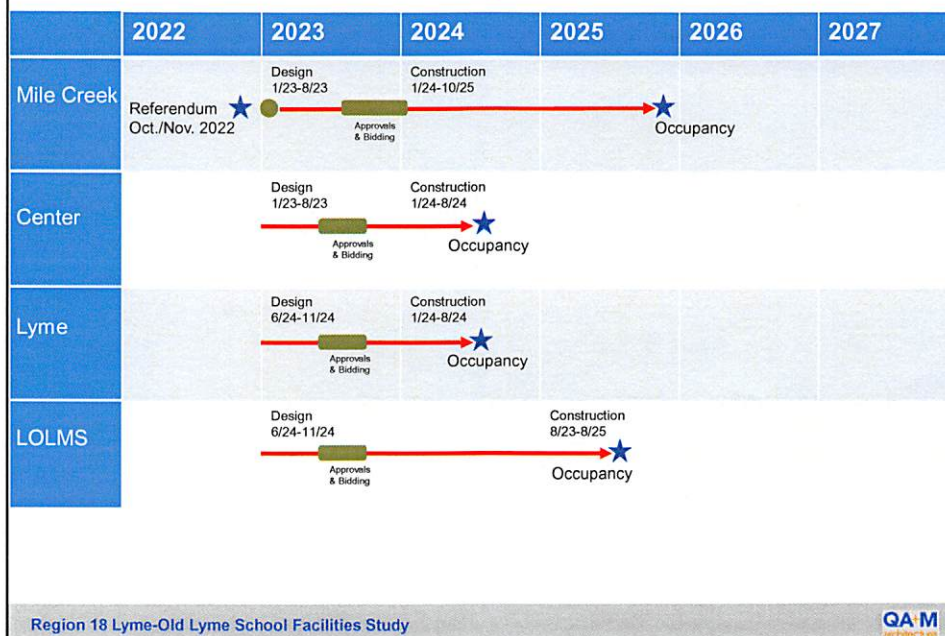
Priorities

1. End of life HVAC systems
2. Code Compliance
3. Safety and Security
4. Enrollment

Option 3A – Base + Mile Creek Renovate as New



POTENTIAL SCHEDULE – Option 3A



Construction Cost Estimate – Option 3A

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PROJECT BREAKDOWN

Site Allowance	\$ 1,653,910
Hazmat & Demo	\$ 2,028,483
MEP&FP Systems	\$18,964,785
Other Trade Cost	\$11,923,112
Construction Phasing	\$ 800,000
GC/CM Cost	\$ 5,248,179
Contingencies	\$ 7,923,073
Escalation	\$ 2,455,086
Project Development	\$ 6,556,709
Total Project Cost	\$57,553,337

Est. Reimbursement	\$ 9,777,775
Net Cost to R#18	\$47,775,562

Project Development Costs Include

Hazmat Testing & Monitoring

Material Testing

Material Testing
FFE & Technology

Commissioning

Commissioning Owners Consultants

A/E Fees (Typically 5.5% to 7%)

Builders Risk Insurance

Permits

Potential Costs to Region #18

OPTIONS	OPTION 3A
Total Project Budget	\$57,533,337
Est. Reimbursement	\$ 9,777,775
Net Cost to R #18	\$47,775,562

NOTE

Budgets include escalation for one year and construction phasing cost. Anticipated project design to start January 2023.

There is a potential for additional state reimbursement for the HVAC work



What's next?

- Opportunity for public comment
- Board action on the proposed resolution and referendum

Board of Ed Construction Response:

Ten reasons why we should not stop this process.

1. Mechanical systems are nearing their life expectancy- as an example, the refrigerant used in our HVAC systems is no longer available- it is very expensive to continue to maintain outdated equipment.

Answer: In the reports for each of the schools, the report states: "It is strongly recommended that **FUTURE** projects consider a more substantial cooling system with better efficiency and maintainability." Note that it is in future projects and was never intended to create a project to incorporate these recommendations.

2. Air quality suffers with aging HVAC systems.

Answer: Again, as stated in the report, all schools do not have what would be considered HVAC systems. We have boilers that supply heat via circulating hot water. We have a mix of air conditioning, but most predominate are window units. Fresh air is supplied via wall units in individual class rooms.

3. Code compliance does not support current ADA standards

Answer: All our schools have been updated to the original or revised ADA code compliance standards when work was performed. Much of this work would involve repainting parking areas and using appropriate signs to meet current standards. Any other non-code compliant facilities that are **REQUIRED** to be updated should be addressed; generally, most ADA codes that are being revised usually must be performed at the next major renovation.

4. The cost to renovate four buildings is proposed at \$57,555,000 (before state reimbursements.) This is \$8,216,042 less than the cost to renovate LOLHS (a single building project) which cost \$47,790,000 in 2008 dollars which is equivalent to \$65,771,042 in today's dollars. I have never heard anyone regret completing the LOLHS project or spending the money to do so. In fact, the contrary is true. People are amazed at how wonderful LOLHS looks and functions.

Answer: This reason has nothing to do about a **NEED** and doesn't address the major disruption to a group of students that has already had a major disruption in their learning. Just because in today's dollars it cost less than what the community spent on the high school does not mean it is worth undertaking. This community has always supported worthwhile school projects, and will continue to do so in the future as long as they have confidence that the BOE is acting responsibly.

5. All of our safety and security entrances were retrofits, and while they are functional, they are not in line with today's standards for school security.

Answer: Exactly what are the standards of today, and are they likely to continue changing as different security concerns are raised? Of course we want the safest schools for our children, and the BOE acted decisively by voting for armed security at the high school. Unfortunately, Sandy Hook had a fantastic security system in place, but was not able to prevent the tragedy that occurred.

6. Home values are directly related to quality of schools- this is why so many people want to move here and why we are seeing an increase in younger students.

Answer: Home values are directly tied to school performance, which is directly related to personnel. You can not be seriously suggesting that spending \$45 million dollars on an HVAC system that no one has shown is needed, will increase property values. What it will do is keep taxes artificially high instead of reducing the tax burden to the residents. A low mil rate is also another reason people seek to live in Old Lyme and Lyme.

7. We are already at max capacity at both elementary schools and are trying to avoid anticipated overcrowding with continued population growth.

Answer: We are not at max capacity. In 2004/05, enrollment was 1588. I believe the BOE has not looked at other options, such as building the BOE its own office space and reconverting Center School into classrooms again. This can be accomplished with no code upgrades since it never closed as a school and was kept open just for this purpose.

8. Prices are only going up so a delay will only further increase the cost.

Answer: Costs don't necessarily continue to rise – the high school was projected to cost a total \$55 million, but came in at \$47.7 million due to lower interest rates. With the cost of building supplies and interest rates being at ten year highs, the likelihood of the cost going down is surely a possibility.

9. The belief that there is a need for an engineering firm to come in and evaluate the schools would be repetitive and costly as this was already done. The full engineering reports for each school can be found here: [QAM](#). These extensive and detailed reports (278 pages worth) demonstrate that all aspects of the buildings and building systems were thoroughly evaluated by independent firms.

10. The idea that the RFP was not sufficient or detailed enough is also misguided as it clearly outlined exactly what we were looking for from the respondents. *"The Regional School District 18 Board of Education ("Region 18") is soliciting proposals from design or other qualified firms for the following professional services to address developing a facilities study reviewing interior and exterior building conditions, site needs, and mechanical, electrical and plumbing assessment with budget cost estimating for Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School, Center School, Lyme Consolidated School, and Mile Creek School: (1) survey and review of existing conditions for Region #18 consideration; (2) assessment, evaluation, and recommendations; and (3) budget cost estimation for future construction.*

This project will include, but not be limited to the following:

1. *Review of existing building documentation and building history.*
2. *Field surveys and evaluations of existing interior and exterior building conditions.*
3. *Field reviews and evaluations of existing building mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems.*
4. *Field survey and evaluation of existing site conditions.*
5. *Meetings with administrators and staff.*
6. *Solutions and recommendations accompanied by graphic documentation.*
7. *Budget cost estimation with implementation timelines."*

Answer: QAM has a vested interest in seeing this project go forward as their firm will also bid on the design and work. If the BOE will pass a motion declaring the QAM can not bid on the design nor construction phases of the proposed project, then QAM could be considered independent. The RFI did not outline the process for which to identify "problems" nor request a minimum of 3 solutions, i.e., bare minimum, better, best. I have read the reports, and I do not find anything in them that indicates that need for an immediate solution. If the boilers are broken, fix or replace them. If a window unit doesn't work, replace it. AC should not be used very often as the average high temperature in June is only 4 degrees hotter than what the temperature is set in the winter, and that is the average high for the day. In September, the average high is only 6 degrees hotter than what the temperature is set for the winter.

The proposed HVAC system should be installed when a full renovation of a school is performed. We are proposing disrupting hundreds of students to install a new system that we have lived without for more than 40 years. We should save taxpayer dollars now and have a long-term strategy of future needs, building upgradability to fit those future needs. As stated by Ian Neviaser, Region 18 schools attract new families from all over the country and world with the heating and cooling system we have currently, I do not see how installing a completely different system, causing so much disruption to the students, will help increase performance or enhance the Region 18 educational system.

Steve Cinami

Thank you for the opportunity to address you this evening. People choose to live in Old Lyme, in large part, because of the schools. While a school is much more than just a building and our Faculty and Staff certainly deserve all credit for the exceptional education that our children receive, those students, teachers, and staff deserve to learn and work in buildings that are well designed and properly maintained. Students should not be learning in classrooms where they are distracted by extreme temperatures, in overcrowded support-services spaces, or in hallways, and faculty and staff should not be expected to work in those conditions either.

As a 2005 graduate of Region 18, I remember the last large renovation project in the schools, It got delayed over and over due to concerns over budget and resulted in many years of disruption to the learning environment, and the renovations that did happen cost the same or more than the original proposal, yet did not contain all the original improvements. I was the class that went through just ahead of the construction, I spent most of my school days in buildings where the floors were stripped to cement and carpet glue residue provided some traction. I can certainly accept that quality learning can be completed in sub-standard environments, teachers are masters of adaptation, but in Lyme-Old Lyme, where we offer "A Private School Experience in a Public School Setting" the experience should be one where the environment has been carefully designed to enhance that experience.

As the Board of Education you have been charged to be good stewards of Regional District 18, maintaining buildings, improving the air quality, and ensuring that the buildings are designed to deliver education as it exists in 2022 and moving forward is part of that charge. Many have argued that the buildings were designed to accommodate 1600+ students and our census sits somewhere in the 1300s, however that delta of 300 is not spread evenly over all 5 buildings, our elementary classes are just as large as they were when the census was in that 1600 range, and in the time since buildings were last renovated the type of education delivered has changed drastically and demand more space; Tutoring services in reading and math have been developed, resulting in the highest CT test results ever (see LymeLine Article: <https://lymeline.com/2022/08/ct-test-results-give-lyme-old-lyme-schools-highest-scores-ever-lol-supt-neviaser-placing-them-in-top-tier-across-subjects-grades/>) Students are receiving more services and enjoying smaller class sizes, with demonstrated results, and those teachers and tutors are "making do" with shared spaces, closets, and hallways. As stewards of this district I charge you to move this building project to referendum and engage in educating the public on how essential this project is to maintaining the high quality schools that benefit all of our property values.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Thompson

Old Lyme

David Kelsey, 74 Sill Lane

First, I want to just say that we will hear comments for and against moving the project process forward – no one on either side has malice for the others, and we should remain civil and respect differing opinions. The high school project now 15 years ago was a disastrous, divisive experience for the town for those that went through it, and we do not need that now – friendships ended, the community I knew was wrent apart, and that is terrible. I know everyone received my letter from last week's meeting, so I make this short to underscore my points of what are best practices for a prudent process for a board representing the voters on what will be the largest project in town history by close to \$20 million. I know my points are supported by other community members in the building trades and owners of significant facilities:

- 1) The process needs to be started fresh and done properly and transparently from the very beginning, which will delay very little, if any, of immediate needs. These projects showed up basically fully baked to the full board of education at a \$42 million rough price tag literally DAYS after the last election for new board members. The process should ALWAYS have started with a disinterested engineering assessment of the schools, coupled with board approved renovations for academic/extracurricular needs changes to establish the scope of the projects. The board has to date relied exclusively on parties with significant interests in a very large municipal project.
- 2) The facilities committee of the board of education needs to be involved from day one and approve recommendations to the full board of education prior to any board action. The purpose of a facilities committee is to have community folks with some understanding of facilities review and opine upon facilities – I do not understand why the usual process of a board committee has not been observed here.
- 3) If the board votes tonight to send this decision to the voters by referendum, it MUST vote to recommend the approval to the voters. Voters are in no way as well-equipped as the board of ed to vote, in a vacuum, on a project this size without the guidance of its elected officials.
- 4) If the board votes tonight for a referendum, the date should be November 8th, NOT any other date. People know that a referendum on a random date

generates incredibly low turnout with commensurate power in a very small minority of town voters.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

David Kelsey

Good evening BOE members, thank you for hearing our comments this evening. I am Mercedes Alger, a 4th grade teacher at Lyme School and RETA Union Co-president with my counterpart here, Heather Fried.

We would like to acknowledge an idea that was expressed by the panel at last week's BOE special meeting. It was said this renovation will not provide a visible "wow factor" to voters. And we want to acknowledge that that's okay because it will afford an incredible wow factor inside our buildings and classrooms.

At Mile Creek, the wow factor will be felt when special educators, mentors, and interventionists can service our learners with the greatest educational needs in quiet classrooms that will allow for specialized instruction rather than in the hallways. At the Middle School the wow factor will be felt the first time they experience a consistent ventilation system. When classrooms are maintained at temperatures that are conducive to learning or holding staff meetings. The wow factor will be felt when proper ventilation is installed in crucial areas beyond the classroom such as the chemical storage room. Finally, at Lyme School the wow factor will be felt in classrooms when the 9ft by 1 ½ ft unit ventilator heating system that fill each room and sound as though you are in a traveling airplane seated over the wing are no longer distracting learners. Not only do these units intake "fresh air" from the ground level near a parking lot; equating not truly fresh air but they continually make loud disruptive banging noises. There is an audible sigh in each classroom when these units shut off at the end of the day. Each of these examples could easily be transferred between the four buildings that are up for renovation and impact our ability to provide the truly exceptional instruction that our community has come to expect.

Last week we were assured by the panel of experts that was assembled to review the building project that this is fiscally responsible and in the communities best interest. The current plans are not a Bently but rather making repairs to our Corolla so that we can continue to move our students forward.

Thank you for all of your time and for voting to send the building project plan to referendum.

Mercedes Alger

September 7, 2022 Special District Meeting - Public Hearing

Statement

Hi my name is Mona Colwell and I am from Old Lyme

Thank you for having this meeting

Thank you all for coming out tonight

I'm glad you guys are here and that you care, I care, too

And like Dave Kelsey said, you know, this is about unity

This isn't about creating a divisive anything

For those of you who haven't been following this process all along, our board of Ed was presented with a very, very narrow selection of choices

There's never been a conversation to talk about other choices on what could be done

These people don't work in the buildings, they would've loved to have talked to all of you to get your advice

We're not against new HVACs

We want them

We want new heating systems

We want our kids to be safe

But some people in our town can't afford a \$58 million project

We have people that are scrambling to buy groceries

You might all look at us like "Oh my gosh, Old Lyme, they're such rich people."

We're not all rich

People will be forced out of their homes by the increase in taxes

We've already been told by Ian Neviasser this is going to increase our taxes

We've been told that in these plans for \$58 million there's room for 11 new classrooms.

He said last week that we really need at best five new classrooms and that the change from 11 to 5 classrooms is between \$4 to \$6 million.

He also said that it didn't matter that much

You know what? That's 10%

And it matters to a lot of people in Old Lyme and Lyme

So people who are saying that they want affordability for our town,

Why would you push so hard for our board of Ed to put through a \$58 million renovation when we already know it could be \$4 - \$6 million less?

And it probably could be even a greater savings to the taxpayer if we were to utilize rooms at Center School that we're not currently utilizing for Region 18

And I know you all love the idea of all new stuff

But it is going to cause a lot of disruption

A lot of cost

And it's going to force a lot of people to have to move out of this town

Prices are coming down

I noticed just today that gas went down \$.50 a gallon since just a month ago

We can't say prices are only going to go up

We can't say that with certainty
But we can take the time to really think about this project
Even if this board could just have one nice discussion where you all aren't yelling at each other
like you were last week
Or shutting each other down
Shame on you
I even asked you guys before the meeting to please not bully each other and you did bully each
other
Poor Chris got screamed at last week
All he wanted to do was say "can we make this budget a little bit lower" and then the crowd
screams "no"
That is not right
This Board of Ed needs to be more united and come together
You need to have robust conversations about this and you need to be fair to the taxpayers of
Old Lyme and Lyme
Thank you

Mona Colwell

My name is Jen Pitman, and I've worked in Region 18 for the past 8 years. I think it's important for you to know that I, like my colleagues, come to work with gratitude each day. Most of us are not complainers by nature. It is always our intention to make the best out of situations, well aware that we don't enter the field of education expecting to be pampered. Part of what is so disappointing about this situation is how out of character it is with what this district normally represents.

I currently teach Art at Mile Creek, having taught at Lyme School for the last 7 years. While I've enjoyed meeting my new students and colleagues, I was immediately taken aback at the poor condition of the HVAC system at Mile Creek. To begin with, it is impossible to maintain a reasonable temperature in the room on hot days. In fact, the HVAC system only seems to make things worse. Last week, on an 85-degree day outside, I measured 92-degree air coming out of my vent.

Yet this is nothing compared to the constant noise pollution generated by the system. To teach or learn in the Art room at Mile Creek, one must contend with noise akin to having a 1970's era dishwasher operating in the room at all times. It is difficult for me to speak above it, for the students to hear through it, and frankly for any of us to ever stop noticing it. It is a quality-of-life issue, one that frustrates me within minutes of entering the room. But more importantly, it affects the children as well, as their voices grow ever louder as they work, in a futile attempt to overcome the mechanical noise all around them.

As I said, we are not expecting to be pampered. We just want safe and comfortable learning environments where our students can thrive. Please support this investment in our facilities, and by extension, our students.

Jen Pitman
Art Teacher - Mile Creek School

Hi My name is Nila Kaczor. I am the teacher for the Talented and Gifted Program and the 4th and 5th grade science teacher at Mile Creek and Lyme Consolidated. I have been fortunate enough to be part of the Region 18 family since 2013. It is with great pride that I stand before and say that I love teaching the students from Region 18 and feel I have been supported by administrators throughout the entire district and community members. With that being said, I am here to tell you that some of the work conditions that I have had to deal with make it difficult to create and maintain a healthy work environment for students of all ability levels.

Noise Pollution- I have a hearing impairment and have to wear a hearing aid and I know several students who do the same or have auditory processing needs. It is nearly impossible to hear students speak above the HVAC systems. Let's face it, classrooms can be noisy as it is with all the turn and talk sessions/inquiry based questions, chairs sliding in and out, etc..but with the extremely noisy conditions, I find myself straining all the time just to have a conversation with students. If I am teaching a lesson and a teacher is having a side conversation with other students or teachers, I can't hear. I find myself talking louder and louder and ask students to constantly repeat themselves. So, I can only imagine what the students must be feeling like if they have hearing problems. We put in the _FM systems_ machines to aid students with hearing impairments, but with the huge obstacle of the noisy HVAC systems, what's the point?

Overcrowding- I go into teacher's classrooms all day or I teach in the hallway, or I teach in the cafeteria. If I am lucky enough to have the art teacher not be in the school on the same day as me, I can use the art room. I teach science and the Gifted and Talented program. What kind of program am I teaching the Gifted students of Region 18, if I don't have a consistent space? A space for them to feel like their own. A space for them to grow and build on what they are already learning in their classrooms. The G & T program I teach is an extension of what the teachers are already teaching the students. I build on the same concepts and dive deeper into the area of technology, science, and Level 4 depth of knowledge questions. But as I sit in the hallway, cafeteria, or am bounced around from area to area, I don't get that opportunity. Some of the students I service for the G & T program, have IEP's and by teaching them in the hallway it is compromising their confidentiality and privacy.

Teaching science requires lots of materials. It is a constant struggle to prep materials for students and transport them back and forth from school to school and classroom to classroom. I never have an area to call my own where students can refer to a word wall of terms they are learning for a particular unit or an area for students to turn to when they finish their work early like a STEM 'take apart' station. Wouldn't it be great if we could not only provide the students of Region 18 an opportunity to enhance their learning even more with this?

Like I said in the beginning, I am proud to teach for Region 18, I just want the students and staff to have the optimal environment for them to be successful. Please consider supporting the investment in our facilities so it can have a more positive impact on our students.

Nila Kaczor
Talented and Gifted Teacher

The Special Education department at Mile Creek School would like to express their concerns regarding the lack of space to service the needs of their students. If you walk around our building, you will often see students receiving academic intervention, specialized instruction or related services such as Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy in the hallway or cafeteria. The issue with delivering these services in a non-classroom setting is that it compromises students' confidentiality and privacy. In addition, using these locations is not best practice as many of these children require optimal learning environments that can not be provided when they are in a noisy hallway, frequented by passing students and staff, or a cafeteria that has custodial and cafeteria workers coming and going as they do their jobs throughout the day. In addition, as also noted by classroom teachers, the current HVAC system and window AC units often need to be shut off, despite uncomfortably warm temperatures, so that students are able to hear critical instruction.

I would also like to share some concerns on behalf of the SRBI department, which delivers intervention and support to students that are not meeting district benchmark expectations, resulting in the need for academic intervention and support. Due to the lack of space in our school, some of these students, who are some of our most vulnerable and at risk learners, are again being serviced in noisy and distracting areas in the building such as hallways and the cafeteria. This again compromises confidentiality and privacy, and impacts the ability for intervention to be provided with fidelity.

As many of you know, every single classroom at Mile Creek is currently being used. If an additional classroom is needed to help to maintain the district's posted guidelines for class size, it is likely that the SRBI classroom will no longer be available, which would cause even more students to have to receive their services in inadequate spaces. For all of the reasons discussed above, the Special Education and SRBI department, as well as all classroom teachers whose students' receive these services, ask that tonight, you vote "yes" on bringing this renovation budget to referendum, so that we can provide quality education and services to our students.

Francesca Fusaro, 5th Grade Teacher, Mile Creek School.

September 7, 2022

Good evening Board of Education, administrators, teachers and community members,

My name is Julia Tackett and I am the music teacher at Mile Creek School. I am proud to work in this district where our students are our first priority and we have so many resources as teachers and staff members.. My biggest concern regarding the renovations proposed for Mile Creek is that we have already run out of space; there are students working in the hallways, teachers on carts, and multiple teachers and staff sharing one classroom space. It was stated at a previous BOE meeting that if Mile Creek gains another class in a grade level, "adding another classroom would mean losing one of the spaces used for art, music, or gifted and talented." Music and art "on a cart" would greatly impact our ability to teach our curriculum, specifically the newly purchased/adopted district-wide music curriculum, and the ability to use the many teaching tools that we have in and around our classrooms. If we are forced to lose our designated music and/or art room, there would be a lasting, negative effect on the exemplary programs that we are so proud of in Region 18. Unfortunately, Spanish and Gifted and Talented students lost their classroom spaces years ago.

Additionally, the HVAC system greatly impacts the ability of many students to focus and learn. In the music room, the radiator blows out hot air while the window unit/AC blows out cold air. They are in constant battle, and even with the AC on the lowest temperature and highest speed setting, the room is still hot and humid, which is wasting a lot of electricity. Students are either extremely warm and thus begin to feel tired and lethargic, or the students directly in front of the air conditioning are freezing, with cold air blowing directly on them, and they are unable to hear instruction due to noise pollution. It is also not a suitable climate for the many instruments that have been purchased over the years and stored in the music room. Even in the colder months the HVAC system does not function properly. One day it will be extremely hot and I have to open the windows when it's 20 degrees outside, or the heat will not work and it will be freezing in the classroom. In the winter students and staff have to be prepared to wear a coat in their classroom but yet have clothing suitable for summertime.

I want to reiterate that I am very grateful to work in this district where I have always found that the needs of students are our first priority. I have so many positive experiences here with students, staff, and administration that I could share with you, but unfortunately the current situation in our school is unfair to our students who deserve a safe and comfortable learning environment. They deserve a music and art space where they can learn, grow, and for many, find success in a space outside their classroom. It is imperative that this issue is voted on tonight so that we can move forward with renovations as soon as possible. Our students cannot continue to learn in these environments for years to come. Our children are the future and they deserve a positive experience in the present.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and consider the impacts of this important decision.

Julia Tackett
Mile Creek Music

Good Evening Board of Education, Administration, Teachers, Parents and Community Members,

As a special area teacher, I am proud to say that I am in my 11th year in Region 18 Schools as the Elementary Spanish teacher. I have had the privilege and joy of getting to know students throughout all grades each year! I have worked in Center School, as well as Lyme and Mile Creek. I feel very fortunate to have the support of parents and administration in supporting our students to achieve at the highest level of proficiency. Over the last few years, I have sadly experienced the loss of educational space in the elementary schools, as well as the challenges with the HVAC system in many of the classrooms. Distractions to learning occur because often the AC is turned low in order to compensate for the heat coming out of the "radiators" which are hot to the touch. Students near the AC are "freezing" and uncomfortable in their learning environment. Teaching language, I cannot hear my students participating over the loud AC units and often turn them off.

In regard to space, I currently have to travel on a cart to all grade 1-5 classrooms to provide instruction in two buildings. Over the years, there has been classroom availability (at MC and Center) to teach Spanish in an environment most conducive to second language acquisition. Students were able to leave their home rooms and enter a space that was print rich and culturally inspiring to best engage in the subject. I was better able to develop rapport with each student and support their growth mindset and positivity toward the challenges of second language acquisition, often with high energy and engaging activities. Although the district curriculum is implemented, the manner of instruction has transformed to meet classroom needs and student enthusiasm for 2nd language has waned. Students deserve a space to develop a positive mindset of risk-taking to apply learning, without conflicting expectations. Having a "language lab" allows for creativity, technology, movement, and music, with expectations for learning that suit this subject. It also allows implementation of cultural enrichment and special events to celebrate our successes.

With emphasis on the biliteracy of our high school students, the needs of our youngest students should be viewed as a priority with appropriate space provided for maximum growth and enthusiasm for the subject, which supports learning in other academic areas.

Thank you for considering the needs of our children. It is an honor to provide the strongest foundation possible for our young second language learners, with the results of the highest proficiency possible! If becoming bilingual is crucial to becoming a global citizen in our rapidly changing world, providing a designated space to maximize learning will reflect these values and represent us well as an exemplary school district.

Thank you for considering the important needs of the elementary Spanish program.

Sincerely,
Michele Tackett
World Language Teacher grades 1-5

My name is Diana Marchese. I am the Library Media specialist at Mile Creek School. I apologize for not being present this evening as I am attending back to school night for my children.

I feel I need to speak to the conditions of the library at Mile Creek. I have a beautiful space to work in. We had a physical renovation several years ago and with the support of the district I have been able to make the space something very special. We have a significant investment in the print materials and technology housed in the library but I worry every summer about the humidity and the effects the humidity may have on the books in particular. The air conditioning doesn't seem to be able to "keep up" with the heat and pages tend to wilt and feel moist. There have been occasions where I have had to weed books because of mold growth and I can't open the windows as that lets in more heat and humidity.

There is a distinct smell upon entering the library that we haven't been able to figure out. The smell is very prominent in the fall. When the air conditioning is working, it is cold to the point of kids needing to go get their sweaters and jackets. The system can't seem to regulate.

I also have basic safety concerns with the lack of sprinklers in the library and the lack of adequate ventilation.

Ron and the facilities department work very hard to keep the space clean. They are incredibly responsive to requests for trying to regulate the temperature but if the system is broken it's kind of like putting band aids on a cut that needs stitches.

I would like to add that I am grateful to have a dedicated space for library instruction. I want to voice my support for the students doing their best to work in hallways and the cafeteria due to our lack of space. Some of our students with the greatest needs are working in areas that lack confidentiality and privacy due to the public nature of the spaces. An increase in distractions for these students is certain with classmates walking past instruction to use the bathroom or travel to specials.

We are an exemplary school district that I am hugely proud to work in. We are fortunate that we have resources to allocate to our students. These improvements can't wait. We have students that come to school ready to learn, dedicated staff ready to teach, and parents ready to support all of us. It is my hope we can see the same dedication made to our facilities as yet another way to support our children.

Diana Marchese
Media Specialist
Mile Creek School

Good Evening Board of Education Members.

My name is Paul Murphy and I have been teaching health and physical education at Mile Creek School for the past ten years.

I would like to address the HVAC system in the gymnasium as we discuss the proposed building project at Mile Creek. A typical day in the gymnasium is anywhere between 82 and 86 degrees. While it's difficult to teach in this heat, it's also challenging to get students to perform their best when they are uncomfortable. Some days, we have two classes at the same time in the gym. Most students have to stop several times for water breaks or just give themselves time to cool down. It's especially tough for students who come in from recess and have no place to cool down until they are back in their homerooms.

Second part of the HVAC system I would like to discuss is its inefficiency. Currently, there is one ventilator on and one off. With the number of students who use the gymnasium each day, it's difficult to believe that air circulation and filtration are meeting the needs of students and teachers. Having several students on breathing treatment regimens, this facility is not suitable for them to participate in.

Lastly, I would like to voice my support for those staff members who teach in hallways. These areas are not classrooms. Students who need to focus on their work cannot do so when other students are walking to the bathrooms or classes are moving to and from unified arts room. It's very difficult to get students to focus on a task when we can't provide them with a space for them to excel.

Everyday our students say the school motto. I will "be safe, be kind, and do my best." Are we setting up our students to be safe and do their best? I take great pride in what I do and where I get to do it. These building improvements are essential to allow us to provide a quality education to our students.

Regards.
Paul Murphy
Mile Creek School

My classroom is very hot by the HVAC system and water pipes. Children sitting near this area complain of heat. Due to reaching out so often to school dude (our districts Maintance Work order program) and Mr. Turner (Director of Facilities and Technology) so often (for over a year) another air conditioner was added to my classroom. Now I have two air conditioners. Some children complain about the cold air blowing on them and this impedes their learning. In addition to the cold, the noise from two air conditioners also impact learning and requires me to repeat myself often even while using the microphone.

Once the temperature cools off outside the HVAC continues to be an issue. Hot air pumps out year round. Windows need to be open in the winter or air conidtioners kept on to cool down the classroom.

The maintenance staff has tried to support me and my students but the heat continues to affect our learning time.

Complete 20044 20	Mile Creek Elementary Can blinds be put on the inside of the exterior classroom doors at Mile Creek? This will help with the sunshine. Thank you!	Installed blind 11/11/2021 Windows	12/21/2021
Complete 20023 20	Mile Creek Elementary My room is very hot. I have the windows open all day. The heat coming off the water pipes is hot and makes the room warm.	Unit is working properly at this time 11/3/2021 Heating/Ventilation /Air Conditioning	11/3/2021
Complete 19898 Classroom 20	Mile Creek Elementary The heat is coming out of the vents under my windows. It is hot. Please turn off all heat. Wearing a mask all day in a hot classroom is unbearable.	Unit is circulating room temp. air 10/1/2021 Heating/Ventilation /Air Conditioning	10/4/2021
Complete 19890 Classroom 20	Mile Creek Elementary Air conditioning filter needs to be replaced. The light is on. My room also has the heat on. It is so hot!!!! Please turn the heat off!	Cleaned filter reset unit 9/28/2021 Heating/Ventilation /Air Conditioning	9/29/2021

Kristen Hatchel

Old Lyme/Lyme Board of Education,

My name is Susan Oliver. I am a 2nd Grade teacher at Mile Creek and I have been an Old Lyme resident for 38 years.

I would like to begin by saying that I am very appreciative of all the resources and staff support available to me, my students, and my own children throughout the years.

I am standing here today because of the HVAC system in my classroom and in the building. I have been in my current classroom for over ten years. During the spring and summer, the heater/radiator system is always on and because the classroom becomes so hot the window air conditioner is also running. This seems to be a poor use of our oil and electrical resources. The other problem is the noise level. The unit ventilator's air circulation system is loud and then when the air conditioner is in use the noise level gets even worse. We are lucky to have FM systems in our room to be heard. Throughout the year my students also need to use the microphone when answering questions so everyone can hear their comments as well.

The HVAC situation is also a problem during the winter. There are days that my classroom gets unbearably hot. Maintenance has periodically been able to make some adjustments with the temperature level, but it reoccurs periodically throughout the year.

This situation is not only a problem in my classroom, but also in the cafeteria, gymnasium, and art room. My students come back from these areas overheated. It takes precious minutes from instructional time for them to cool down and become ready to learn again.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Susan Oliver
Second Grade Teacher
Mile Creek School