

BET Budget Committee Decision Day
Questions and Answers
March 6, 2023

Q1: MISA Lighting: How will the \$25,000 be utilized? Is there a lighting problem or something specific we are addressing?

The fixtures that provide emergency egress lighting in the audience chamber, the control booth, and at access to the stage have begun to fail and need replacement. The original manufacturer is unable to provide replacement parts. The funding is for new comparable fixtures.

Q2: The Budget Committee has asked that capital prioritize the projects, while keeping in mind the capacity to complete the projects.

The Board of Education submitted, as requested, a prioritized 15YR Capital Plan. Per BET Guidelines and close coordination with OFS, the first 5 years were heavily prioritized, which is evidenced by the 5YR reduction of 17% in capital over last year's plan.

Q3: Cardinal Stadium: How much is needed for trees? We have different numbers: \$70,000, \$75,000, and the original request was \$125,000.

With discussions between Blaize Levitan and the TOG Tree Warden, the estimate was lowered to \$70K. This was partially due to the trees originally included in Phase II are no longer being addressed.

A revised project sheet was submitted to the BET and Roland Geiger on February 27, 2023. Please see [Supporting Documents from February 27, 2023](#): Page 14

Q4: Windows and Doors: Do we need the windows and doors funding? Why do we have a backlog?

The main reason for window replacement is that some of our facilities are still utilizing windows and window systems that are not efficient and the schools are experiencing heat/cooling loss. Doors need to be upgraded for a number of reasons, but mostly security. Doors are the most utilized and under-maintained component of the schools envelope. Backlog is mainly due to supply chain concerns.

The GPS Facilities Department has confirmed they have the ability to execute this capital within a reasonable timeframe.

Q5: Western Middle School Soil Remediation: Provide details of cost estimate to date.

Please see [Supporting Documents from February 9, 2023](#): Pages 21-24

Q6: Provide information on Havemeyer out years. Provide the sheet and information.

OFS went through the GPS project sheets and removed any funding for upgrades in capital programs identified for the Havemeyer building. The bulk of the funding removed within the next five years was \$1.2M for ADA compliance, primarily an elevator installed in the building.

Q7: GHS Cell Service - Provide the capital project information which was pulled out of the First Selectman's budget. Is this the only solution available? Has GPS explored other options? (more cost effective options)

Please see the [BOE Submitted CIP Project Sheet](#) for GHS Cellular Improvement: Page 31.

This project was also included in [the presentation to the BET Budget Committee](#) on January 24, 2023, please see page 54.

This is the best option to proceed with the life safety issue clearly identified at GHS. GPS worked to phase this project, making the funding more tolerable to the Town's capital financing program. GPS IT has approached all three major carriers to see if there was a better alternative. All three carriers could not provide a better option than the GPS proposal or a cell tower.

Q8: The project sheet for the school lunch fund is not correct. The front seems like this year and the back side looks like last year. It has trays and silverware as a request.

The trays and silverware are a carryover of the BOE deferred GHS kitchen project. The \$14,300 can be removed from FY24.

Q9: Central Middle School - Why is the square footage higher?

Please see the [Supporting Documents from February 9, 2023](#): Page 4

Q10: What are the Central Middle School and Old Greenwich School project costs in regards to the architect's current information?

Based on the current information and status of the building committee, which does not have a design, the original BOE estimate for CMS, based upon \$700/sq ft, is the most logical cost estimate.

This has been backed up by most recent State school construction projects.

Connecticut School New Construction Comps - 2021-2023

Grant Priority List	Town	Type	Grades	Name	Design Enrollment	Budget	Sq. ft	Cost per sq. ft
2023	Cheshire	Elementary	Gr. K-6	Norton Elem	661	\$76,656,200	91,484	\$838
2023	Cheshire	Elementary	Gr. Pk-6	North End Elem	790	\$89,942,900	109,967	\$818
2023	Madison	Elementary	Gr. Pk-5	Jeffrey Elem	640	\$61,148,600	78,527	\$779
2023	Norwalk	Elementary	Gr. Pk-5	SoNo Elem	686	\$76,000,000	86,332	\$880
2023	Stamford	Elem/Middle	Gr. K-8	Roxbury Elem	850	\$86,000,000	115,992	\$741
2023	Farmington	High	Gr. 9-12	Farmington HS	1,382	\$141,366,047	271,648	\$520
2023	Stamford	High	Gr. 9-12	Westhill HS	2,458	\$301,313,888	428,921	\$702
2023	Bristol	Middle	Gr. 6-8	Northeast MS	748	\$89,068,965	125,664	\$709
2023	Cromwell	Middle	Gr. 6-8	Cromwell MS	478	\$80,000,000	83,313	\$960
2021	Norwalk	Elementary	Gr. Pk-5	Cranberry Elem	497	\$45,000,000	62,288	\$722
2021	S. Windsor	Elementary	Gr. Pk-5	Pleasant Val El.	803	\$58,500,000	94,607	\$618
2021	West Haven	Elementary	Gr. Pk-4	Washington El.	438	\$38,803,926	52,560	\$738
2021	N. Branford	High	Gr. 9-12	N. Branford HS	524	\$66,242,390	102,000	\$649
2021	Torrington	Middle/High	Gr. 7-12	Torrington MS/HS	1,571	\$159,575,000	268,641	\$594
Average					895	\$97,829,851	140,853	\$734
Average 2023					966	\$111,277,400	154,650	\$772
Average 2021					767	\$73,624,263	116,019	\$665
Median					717	\$78,328,100	98,304	\$730
Median 2023					748	\$86,000,000	109,967	\$779
Median 2021					524	\$58,500,000	94,607	\$649

Q11: Why doesn't GPS apply for the emergency process for CMS?

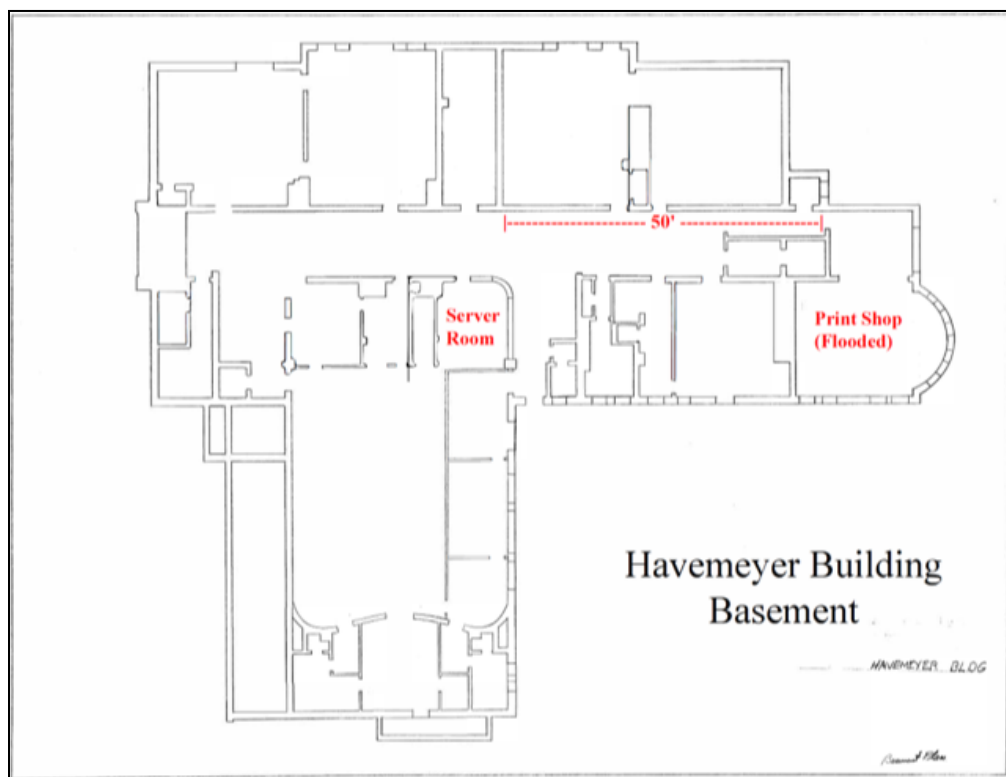
GPS has been discussing this with the State directly. First, DAS staff pointed out that in the last 25 years, DAS has approved about 8 emergency declarations throughout Connecticut. Second, with the Building Committee's current timeline, there is no reason to submit the request at this time. The Building Committee does not have a design and is not ready to go out to bid for construction. If the DAS Commissioner designated as "emergency," it allows the district to go out to bid immediately without a meeting or letter from the State plan review team. This does not mean the district does not have to follow Chapter 173 of State law. It means that the district will comply with the full process and requirements, just at a later time frame.

If the Building Committee is unable to make the June 30th application, it would then make sense for the BOE to try to seek an emergency application, to avoid a delay of next June 30th. If the Building Committee was also ready to bid construction now, it may have made sense to seek the application. But the current timeline indicates the State process makes sense.

The State also pointed out that the process doesn't inherently save or increase on cost. To start, the Town is only *appropriating* the funds, but does not need to actually finance the cash at time of application. The Town never needs to finance the State portion, and doesn't need to finance cash until it is needed.

Q12: BOE Disaster Recovery - What would have happened if the recent water event at Havemeyer flooded the room where the servers are housed?

The Print Shop is located in the southwest corner of the basement of the Havemeyer building. On the weekend of February 3, a plumbing failure on the second floor of the Havemeyer building flooded the print shop and destroyed all of the printing equipment. The main server room for Greenwich Public Schools is also located in the basement of the Havemeyer building, approximately 50 feet from the print shop. Had the server room suffered the same type of water damage as the print shop, the entire school district would lose all network connectivity, including a loss of all access to the internet and WiFi. Repairs to restore network connectivity would involve the procurement of hundreds of thousands of dollars of new network equipment and take, at a minimum, 2-3 weeks to repair. Repairs would likely take much longer than that, given the current worldwide supply chain and chip shortage issues. Bottom line, if a pipe bursts near the server room, the school district could be down for months.



Q13: Can the State's school security grant be used for uniformed patrols?

No. Funds through this program cannot be used for personnel. It is intended for hardening measures.