

**SBAC VOTES TO MOVE FORWARD TWO OPTIONS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT
AND CONTINUED PUBLIC FEEDBACK
3/25/25**

On Monday, March 24, the School Building Advisory Committee (SBAC) voted to move forward two potential school solution options for further development and continued public feedback:

- 1) **K-2 Neighborhood School Concept:** This option maintains the three-school “neighborhood” structure of Scarborough’s K-2 primary schools. In this option, two of the current primary schools will be renovated and expanded, and one will be replaced with a newly constructed Neighborhood school, location TBD. This plan represents a hybrid of the original options A and B. (Details below)
- 2) **K-2 Consolidated School Concept:** This option is designed to be significantly smaller and less costly than the failed K-3 Consolidated School proposed in 2023 — a direct response to community feedback expressed at the last referendum and in two subsequent school surveys. Different building sites are being explored — i.e. not Scarborough Downs.

Both options incorporate the same plans for the Middle School and Wentworth:

- An addition will be built onto the Middle School to eliminate portables, right-size the cafeteria (which is currently below capacity), and add necessary core spaces including much-needed music and art spaces.
- Wentworth will receive a limited 3-classroom addition to accommodate future population increase.

Potential building sites for both options are actively being explored. More details will be available in the coming weeks.

The current rough order of magnitude cost estimates for each option are just over \$130M. The committee is actively working with consultants to refine these costs and explore further scope reductions to bring the costs down. These potential scope reductions will entail trade-offs, including possible deferment of some work or other considerations.

Rationale for the NEW K-2 Neighborhood Option

The K-2 Neighborhood concept that is moving forward represents a hybrid of the original option A (Maintain the 3 Primaries) and B (Add a 4th Neighborhood School). It replaces those options. This plan is viewed as a compromise that:

- Preserves the overall Neighborhood School structure that has been preferred by residents;
- Provides a better opportunity for improved student outcomes through updated facilities to address current educational programming needs; and
- Offers some potential for future expansion/flexibility for the primary level at the new site.

How will the decision be made about which K-2 school is re-built?

Each of the existing primary schools has challenges related to renovation and expansion, including structural costs and site size constraints. It is important for each school to reside on a footprint that supports adequate outdoor space and parking. Another key element is the geographic location of the new school. The decision about which schools to renovate and which one to rebuild will take into account all these factors.

Over the next few weeks, both Harriman and the SBAC site selection subcommittee are exploring these questions. Discussion and recommendations will take place at the next SBAC meeting on April 7.

What will happen to the school building that is slated for replacement?

It is too early to know. Per the charter, the Town Council will be in a position to make a decision about the future of the existing K-2 school site that is vacated as part of the project, including any potential re-purposing.

Rationale for the K-2 Consolidated School Option

This K-2 Consolidated School project was one of several ideas that community members proposed in the recent survey. It is being explored by the SBAC in direct response to community feedback and in recognition of the need to balance educational excellence with fiscal responsibility. After the failed K-3 Consolidated School proposal for a \$160 million project that would have served upwards of 1,175 students in 2023, the community was clear in expressing concerns regarding the project's scale, overall cost, and location.

This new concept aims to address those concerns by offering a significantly smaller, more affordable solution that meets the educational needs of our youngest learners with a school-within-a-school model (much like Wentworth), while ensuring financial sustainability for the town by lowering yearly operational costs.

Rationale for Elimination of Other Options

- Option A was removed as it restricted future potential expansion, did not address undersized classrooms, and had limited outdoor play space and parking.
- Option B would have added a 4th building at the K-2 level, increasing operational costs, and had limited outdoor play space and parking at the existing schools.
- Options C (New 2-3 School), G (New 1-3 School) and D (K-3 Consolidated) were eliminated due to costs that were well beyond \$130M, and significant lack of public support, as demonstrated in the recent survey feedback.

Next Steps

Joint Town Council/School Board workshop	Apr 2
SBAC meeting: Renovation/replacement discussion and recommendation for the Neighborhood School Option; location discussion (in executive session)	Apr 7
Public forum — Public feedback on two options	Apr 30
Community survey — Public feedback on two options	Late April-early May
SBAC Recommendation: Preferred option	mid-May