West Rocks Middle School

In 2021 the Norwalk Board of Education commissioned Newman/DLR Architects for a district wide feasibility study of all of their school buildings. Newman/DLR performed a comprehensive review of all of Norwalk's schools culminating in a report identifying all school facilities needs grouped into tiers; Tier I being the most urgent schools to be attended to. The tier I schools consisted of: West Rocks MS, Tracey ES, Nathan Hale MS, Wolfpit ES, Fox Run ES and Roton MS.

Based on the Newman/DLR feasibility study, it was determined that West Rocks MS is the most in need of repair and improvements to bring the facilities to a satisfactory level. The School has a total student enrollment of approximately 635 (we reduced the student enrollment through Middle SChool Choice in order to reduce enrollment and the need for the portables) students for grades 6th, 7th and 8th. Items identified in the Newman/DLR report included items such as:

- Overall improvements to the building systems/infrastructure which have reached the end of building life cycle
- The need for a Secured Vestibule (vestibule was constructed through capital funds)
- Additional Classrooms to eliminate the portables (portables were removed last year)
- Create collaboration spaces
- Create flexible small group rooms
- Right size the classrooms
- Provide flexible contemporary furniture

Based on this information NPS and the City is recommending that West Rocks School should be the next school following the completion of South Norwalk School and the ongoing Norwalk High School.

West Rocks Middle School, originally constructed in 1956, is a 2-story steel frame structure with exterior masonry wall construction, and a low-slope built-up roof system, with a floor area of 100,508 square feet. In 1999/2000, the City implemented a code update project. Despite regular maintenance and upkeep, the existing facility has also been subject to roof leaks as the entire building is near the end of its anticipated service life.

A new West Rocks Middle School is proposed to be constructed on the portion of the existing site currently occupied by athletic fields. Utilizing the site's existing topographic relief, a multi-level facility can be constructed without impeding the

operation of the existing school. The schedule of construction anticipates breaking ground in the Spring of 2028 and a two-year construction period with the new facility ready for occupancy in the Fall of 2030. Upon completion of the new school building, the existing school will be demolished to accommodate the replacement of outdoor athletic fields. The new West Rocks Middle School will be designed to serve a population of approximately 720 students. Each grade will have five standard classrooms and each classroom will have a **24-student capacity,** (Middle School Classroom Capacity is 28 students per contract)**.** The school's New Century educational program will be further augmented by a variety of spaces such as science labs; specialized instructional spaces dedicated to various special education programs; resource rooms to accommodate independent and small group learning; and an outdoor learning space. Based on the State Space Standard the new school building will be approximately 121,838 square feet.