



MASTER PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

SIMSBUURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS Facilities Master Plan & Reconfiguration Study

OFFER INPUT AT OUR NEXT FORUM

NOVEMBER 20TH | 7:00 PM
at the Henry James Memorial School Cafeteria

Why Attend? Find out more about each of the options being considered, ask a question and voice your opinion. We need your input now, as we work toward refining the details of a preferred plan for our community schools.

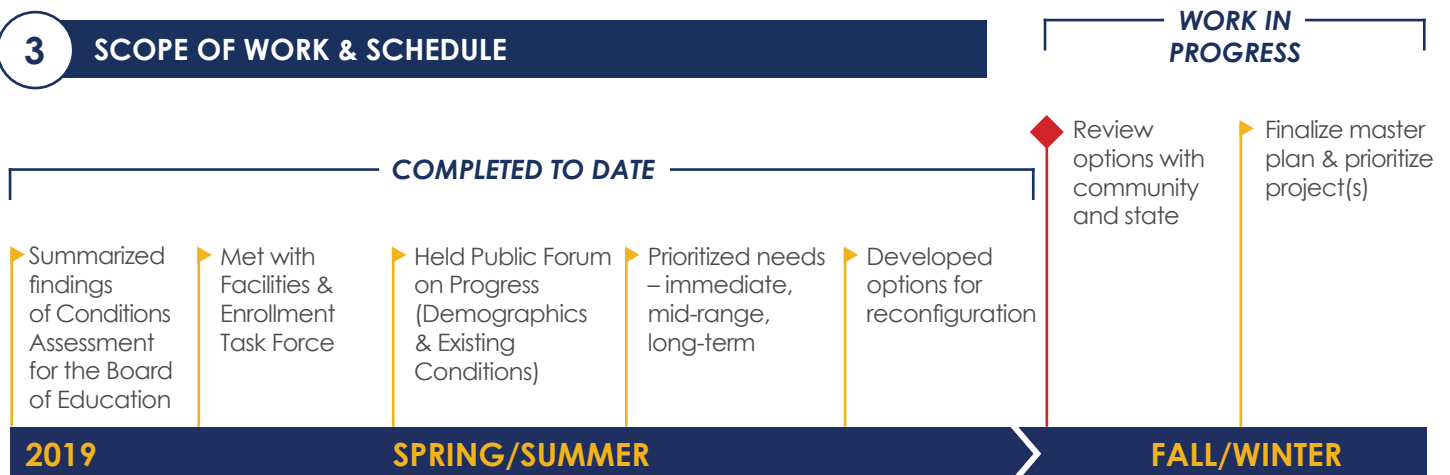
1 PROJECT HISTORY & PROCESS

Over this past year, dating back to December 2018, Tecton Architects has been working with the Town of Simsbury, the Facilities and Enrollment Task Force Committee, representatives of the various public Town Boards, user groups, faculty, staff and the community to develop a Long Range Master Plan for the Simsbury Public Schools. Since our last Public Forum in June where we presented our finding on the existing conditions and demographics, we have been working with these groups to create a series of planning options for Simsbury's school facilities.

2 SUMMARY OF THE GOALS

- Analyze existing conditions and assess the educational needs
- Develop a 10 to 15 year prioritized plan (Capital & Maintenance)
- Employ a sustainable approach to address facility and educational needs of the community
- Explore impact of demographics and population projections
- Develop alternative configurations and options
- Engage the community and explore responsive solutions
- **Produce a Long Range Master Plan for the community**

3 SCOPE OF WORK & SCHEDULE



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WHAT WAS COMMUNICATED AT OUR FIRST PUBLIC FORUM

In June, we held our first public forum to review Town demographics and projected student enrollment, and discussed our findings on the conditions of your existing school facilities. In summary:

- New housing development was analyzed as a part of the enrollment projections. Findings conclude:
 - A steady increase in elementary enrollment over the next five years (~300 students in K-6).
 - Fastest growth at Latimer Lane (21.3%), Squadron Line (17.4%) and Central (15.3%).
- Town has taken a methodical approach to building upgrades, **though none have been comprehensive renovations.**
- Facilities are well-maintained and community has received solid value on their investment.
- **Most of the need is found in the elementary schools.** Findings included:
 - Facilities have been added to and/or partially renovated, **leaving a complex composition of new and old, inefficient layouts and various vintages** (exception: Squadron Line).
 - Programmatically, the faculty has made use of every space possible.
 - Renovations to core facilities are needed (bathrooms, cafeterias, kitchens, gymnasiums, media centers).
 - No facility has received a comprehensive renovation since its original construction.
 - **The average age of the original elementary schools is 74.4 years.**

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WHAT WE HEARD AT THE FIRST FORUM

In case you missed the first public forum, we received a lot of great comments from the community, including:

- Most existing condition issues were not a surprise, either in the buildings or the sites. It is time to look at it comprehensively.
- Sustainability is important: implementation of design elements, new technologies, curriculum/practices that support the environment, using the building as a teaching tool, improved air quality, no fossil fuels, net-zero, etc.
- Agreed that schools are being used to their maximum potential.
- Spaces should be flexible and not oversized: encouraged to research trends around the country and world.
- Site schemes should address security, accessibility and clear traffic flow, with separation of bus/automobile.
- There are no preconceived ideas for the options: the metrics for evaluating them should be clear and quantitative.
- Designs must be fiscally responsible, balancing life cycle costs vs. initial costs.

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RECONFIGURATION OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Over the last several months, Tecton Architects has developed a series of options for consideration and held workshops with leadership, faculty and staff from the Simsbury Public Schools, the Facilities and Enrollment Task Force Committee, representatives from various public Town Boards, user groups and the community. Multiple options, reconfigurations and revisions to options have been reviewed. The following summary represents the groups' preferred options to date:

OPTION 1

Step 1 - Construct New Lower Middle Academy (5-6) at the Henry James Middle School site and reconfigure Elementary Schools to K-4; repurpose Tariffville as PK and Board of Education space.

Step 2 - Option to add/renovate/rebuild 3 Elementary Schools and repurpose Tootin Hills or add/renovate/rebuild all 4 remaining Elementary Schools.

OPTION 2

Step 1 - Add on to Henry James to accommodate 6th Grade and reconfigure Elementary Schools to K-5; repurpose Tariffville as PK and Board of Education space.

Step 2 - Renovate and/or rebuild 4 remaining Elementary Schools.

CAN'T ATTEND?

Submit comments to study@simsbury.k12.ct.us or visit our webpage at www.simsbury.k12.ct.us/facilities-study