

SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Granby Memorial High School was built in 1947 and was significantly renovated in 2000 and the Middle School is almost 30 years old. Roofs and HVAC systems are at or nearing the end of their useful life, adversely impacting the annual budget if left unaddressed. Changing educational requirements of 21st century learning need to be addressed. All these improvements are necessary and only get more expensive if we delay.

Infrastructure and Systems

Infrastructure updates need immediate attention. This includes the replacement of the twenty-year-old roof and HVAC system with provisions for targeted air conditioning and ventilation to parts of the building including the commons, locker rooms, and gymnasiums. Alterations to the north staircase of Building 1 address safety issues posed by student congestion, which were cited in our recent NEAS&C Accreditation Report.

Science, Career, and Technology Education Spaces

Current curriculum requires upgrades and modernization of the Technology/Wood Shop and the Family & Consumer Science spaces. Plans also provide for additional program spaces for Robotics and a Science Combination Classroom/Lab to support the increased graduation requirements.

Food Service and Student Dining

The high school does not have a kitchen or adequate cafeteria. This need is a repeat and continuing concern of the accreditation body, NEAS&C. Opportunities to explore healthier eating and local farm-to-table programs and the related curriculum require these changes.

Library-Media Center

Updates to innovative curriculum spaces, digital technologies, and flexible learning spaces will best meet students' learning needs. The changes will support flexible and collaborative learning spaces and make space for dedicated teaching and tutorial spaces which do not now exist.

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and educational space
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Performing Arts

The performing arts, an integral and growing part of the arts curriculum and high school experience, have an acute need for space for the expanding music and drama programs that our current facility cannot accommodate. We currently have no dedicated band practice space, little useable storage, and sub-optimal instructional space, even as student and community-wide interest and engagement in these services grows.

Athletic facilities

Athletes and visitors using the stadium and fields do not have access to water and restrooms, which creates safety, health, and hygiene issues. Athletic improvements include the addition of restroom facilities, plumbed water to the fields, and four field lights to complete the original turf installation.

SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS: FAQs

Why does this project include such a variety of apparently disparate pieces?

The Board of Education continuously reviews all of its assets in an effort to identify and plan for future capital needs to incorporate into the town's long-range planning and fiscal modeling. While the variety of issues addressed in this project might appear haphazard—for example, a long-overdue kitchen in the high school, roofing and HVAC replacements, and media center renovations to accommodate modern learning spaces—it is in fact a strategic grouping of needs. If not addressed through this bond referendum, maintenance will cost more, learning will be impaired, and Granby's attractiveness to others in an era of regionalization will be diminished.

Why do we need a kitchen/cafeteria in the high school and why don't we have one now?

The last major high school project (completed almost 20 years ago) excluded these standard items in order to save money, with the expectation they would be addressed in a future bond issue. That was three bond issues ago. State accreditation reviews have twice raised this as an issue of concern, since students should have access to healthy prepared food while at school.

Why are athletic investments included? Didn't we address this in the last referendum?

When the athletic complex was built, several elements were deferred, including access to water and restroom facilities, lights for the second turf field, and a press box. In response to public input, we have eliminated the press box. Running water, restrooms, and lighted fields address health and safety issues, and complete this highly-used and valued community asset.

Why do we need new roofs and HVAC systems? It seems like we just built or renovated the schools.

These facilities need constant maintenance and upgrades and 20 to 25 years is the expected lifespan of roofs and HVAC systems. Using bond proceeds for replacement over the next 5 years will be more cost-effective than incurring fast-increasing annual maintenance and repair expenses. As identified in the most accreditation report, HVAC upgrades will help address excessively hot areas and improve air quality in the most oppressive parts of the building.

Why do we need all the learning-space reconfiguration: media center; science, career, and technology; performing arts and band storage?

Curriculum requirements have evolved significantly in the past 10+ years and Granby is committed to twenty-first century learning opportunities so our graduates can be successful in college and career pursuits. The Board goals and accreditation report support these recommended changes.

Why make these investments now when it is possible the State will force us to regionalize?

We know that what attracts people to live in Granby is its schools, and with the lowest per pupil cost in the region, we are extremely well-positioned to control our own destiny in any regionalization scenario. These investments are required for our current students' education and for us to stay competitive should regionalization happen.