



On Friday, May 10, 2013 the Sandy Hook School Task Force voted to recommend to the Newtown Board of Education that the current Sandy Hook Elementary School (SHS) be removed and a new elementary school would be built on a modified version of the current site.

QUESTION	ANSWER
<p>Who was on the Sandy Hook School Task Force?</p>	<p><u>BOARD OF EDUCATION</u> Bill Hart Laura Roche Richard Gaines Keith Alexander Debbie Leidlein Cody McCubbin John Vouros</p> <p><u>BOARD OF FINANCE</u> Jimmy Gaston Joe Kearney John Kortze Richard Oparowski Carol Walsh Harry Waterbury</p> <p><u>BOARD OF SELECTMEN</u> Pat Llodra Will Rodgers Jim Gaston</p> <p><u>LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL</u> George Ferguson Joe Girgasky Paul Lundquist Bob Merola Kathy Fetchick Dan Honan Mary Ann Jacob Dan Wiedemann Dan Amaral Neil Chaudhary Jeff Capeci Phil Carroll</p>
<p>The Task Force meetings were recorded. Where can I view the meetings?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task Force meetings were recorded and can be viewed at: http://www.newtown-ct.gov/Public_Documents/index • Click left navigation bar "Video on Demand"
<p>Why did the task force recommend using the current site instead of a new site?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 40 sites were considered by the Task Force and evaluated on location, usable acreage, property restrictions (wetlands, topography), current infrastructure, permitting required from Federal, State and local agencies, offsite improvements required, costs and scheduling along with many other criteria.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current site most closely matched the guiding principles and building criteria. Specifically, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was located in Sandy Hook • Has established bus routes • No need for eminent domain to acquire property • All utilities available • Multiple full access to the site (entrance & exit) • Has good vehicle circulation on site • No State roads impacted • Only minimal impact to existing Riverside Road (improvements on school side only)
<p>Why did the task force recommend a new building vs. a renovation?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cost of renovation was close to the cost of a new building. The Task Force considered several renovation considerations such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger cafeteria and gym required • Modify building exterior wall for security recommendations • Abatement of existing building required for code modifications • Level of square footage required for ADA revisions. • Roof at end of life cycles • Major mechanical systems at end of life cycles (heating system, plumbing, electrical) • Current building unable to accommodate air conditioning
<p>What are the short-term next steps?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board of Education will define and finalize education specifications so that the design for the building is consistent with the Town’s educational programming needs. • A SHS Advisory Committee, made up of technical resources, will apply the education specifications to a building design. • A Public & Site Commission will then create and advertise a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for construction management and architect services. • Concurrently, the Town of Newtown will continue to work with CT state officials, the state legislature and local legislators to approve legislation to facilitate approval from the Bureau of School Facilities to be placed on the project list and to expedite proper waivers.
<p>What are the long-term next steps?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State review of demolition & abatement • State review of construction documents • Bid project, review & approve bids • Demolition, abatement, site preparation • Building Construction
<p>Do we need to hold a town referendum to approve building a new school?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, we are still determining the referendum process but in order to receive (even if from state & local grants) and allocate funds to build the new school, the Town will have to hold a referendum.
<p>How will the public know how the SHS project is progressing?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Newtown Interim Superintendent, Dr. Reed and First Selectman, Pat Llodra will provide updates to the public via: Town & School websites, Facebook, Twitter, the media, and public update meetings.
<p>When do you hope to have the building complete?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our goal is to have the new building available late in the 2016 school year.