

**MSAD #51**  
**Cumberland - North Yarmouth**  
<http://www.msad51.org>

**Voters' Guide to the Referendum on North Yarmouth Memorial School Closure and Bonding for Greely Middle School's Renovation.**

On June 11th, voters in the Towns of Cumberland and North Yarmouth will vote on the closure of the North Yarmouth Memorial School, and on a \$2 million bond for the expansion and renovation of Greely Middle School. As part of our ongoing effort to provide timely information regarding MSAD #51 Board activities to all stakeholders, the Communications Committee of MSAD #51 has prepared this fact sheet regarding the vote.

For additional information on the background of this referendum, please visit the NYMS/GMS Transition website:

<http://www.msad51.org/home/school-board/nyms-gms-referendums>. This website also can be accessed via a tab on the MSAD #51 homepage ([www.msad51.org](http://www.msad51.org)).

***Article 1:*** (YES or NO) Do you favor authorizing the School Board of School Administrative District No. 51 to close North Yarmouth Memorial School? The additional cost of keeping the school open has been estimated by the School Board of School Administrative District No. 51 to be \$561,565.97.

According to the State of Maine, only one of the two Towns of Cumberland and North Yarmouth needs to vote in favor of closing the North Yarmouth Memorial School in order for the school to close. If either Cumberland or North Yarmouth voters support closure, the school will close. If Article 1 passes, 4th and 5th grade students would transition to Greely Middle School, according to the recommendation of the NYMS Task Force (see note below). It is expected that this transition would occur at the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year.

If neither town supports closure, the school would remain open in its current condition in the short term, and the District would need to pursue an alternate plan to accommodate 4th and 5th grade students. As described in the NYMS Task Force Report, the estimated cost of

renovation of the current structure is \$5.1 million, the estimated cost of new construction at the current location is \$10.5 million, and the cost of renovating both the Mabel I Wilson School and Greely Middle School to accommodate 4th and 5th graders in those facilities respectively is an estimated \$4.75 million. A thorough review of the mechanical and electrical systems, air quality, and structural fitness of North Yarmouth Memorial School was conducted in June 2010. The review concluded that due to aging systems and poor construction, the building was “at the end of its useful life.” In June 2010, MSAD #51 submitted an application to the State of Maine to request subsidized improvements to the North Yarmouth Memorial School. NYMS was placed 65th of the 71 applications received, thereby resulting in a low priority status for State funding.

**Article 2:** *(YES or NO) Shall the School Directors of Administrative District No. 51 be authorized to issue bonds for school construction or minor capital projects in an amount not to exceed Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) the proceeds of which shall be used to finance the design, construction and equipping of an addition to Greely Middle School in the Town of Cumberland, Maine and to finance other costs of the project? (Consolidated in the interest of clarity.)*

If a majority of District voters support the \$2 million bond to expand Greely Middle School, the money will be used to create four additional classrooms, expand the cafeteria and internally renovate to create two classrooms from existing space in the 6th-8th grade wings and proposed 4th-5th grade wings. The additional space would ease the transition in creating a 4-8 school, and help facilitate the development of a wing dedicated to the 4th and 5th graders.

If a majority of District voters do not support the \$2 million bond to expand Greely Middle School but voters from either Cumberland or North Yarmouth support closure of North Yarmouth Memorial School, the District would close the current NYMS facility and absorb 4th and 5th grade into GMS with no structural changes. As noted in the NYMS Task Force report, Greely Middle School technically has the capacity to absorb students from North Yarmouth Memorial School in 2013-2014, whether on a temporary or permanent basis.

If you have additional questions regarding the referendum or June 11th vote, please submit a question on the “Question and Answer Forum” section of the NYMS Transition website:

<http://www.msad51.org/home/school-board/nyms-gms-referendums/questions-answers>

or contact the chairperson of the Communication Committee, Martha Leggat, at [mleggat@msad51.org](mailto:mleggat@msad51.org).

We appreciate your involvement and engagement in these important decisions impacting the future of our District.

#### A Summary of Board Action on NYMS

In 2009, the MSAD #51 BOD focused attention upon the effective use of physical structures in the District, and analyzed how those structures impact student achievement and economic sustainability. It commissioned a Sustainability Task Force that made four primary recommendations after months of extensive research: reconfigure grades to reduce transitions and more effectively utilize our learning facilities; relocate third grade to the MIW and repurpose the Drowne Road School; gather baseline data to inform future facilities recommendations by commissioning an architectural and engineering study of NYMS; create a community action group to examine current district assets; and investigate new collaboration and consolidation options.

In the fall of 2011, the BOD established a task force charged with reviewing data and recommending a course of action regarding the future of the North Yarmouth Memorial School. The nine-member task force was comprised of six residents of North Yarmouth and three from Cumberland including, an NYMS administrator, a NYMS faculty member, current NY and Cumberland parents, two MSAD# 51 Board members and was assisted by the Superintendent and by the Director of Finance. After deliberation on each of those recommendations, the Task Force’s final recommendation is that the current NYMS facility is to be closed and the student population be relocated to the Middle School following the construction of a 4,000 sq ft two-story addition to the cafeteria and library, and a 4,000 sq ft addition of instructional space housing four new classrooms. The BOD hosted several workshops and a public hearing on the topic of NYMS on December 3, 2012. On April 1, 2013 the BOD voted (7-1) to approve the closure of NYMS, and for the issuance of bonds for the District to finance the minor capital improvement of Greely Middle School. The architectural plan ultimately approved by the BOD was a modified version of the plan originally recommended by the Task Force.