

A great opportunity lies before the community of Tolland. Through the hard work of many in the Town and the Schools a bond request for 9.6 million dollars has been generated. This bond request, if fulfilled, will allow the schools to address issues with facilities and set the stage for preventative maintenance in the future. The items included in the bond are carefully considered, put into well-articulated plans, and are crucial to maintain the investment of our buildings.

Our operating budget cannot “catch up” to the physical needs of the school buildings. Many of these items were part of previous capital plans, but have often needed to be deferred. Without the success of this bond request, the pattern of “doing what we can” with available funds will result in the continued deterioration of the buildings that the Town nobly invested to build. The timing for the proposed borrowing is ideal as it coincides with a period where the Town’s financial rating from agencies such as Standard and Poors and Moodys is at an all-time high, which translates into the lowest possible rates being offered to the Town. The addition of the new debt as old debt matures will not have any effect upon the Town’s mill rate.

Along with the bond, the School System and Town are pursuing all eligible State of Connecticut construction grants and available funding assistance resources. This will result in millions of dollars of state aid to contribute to our investment for these projects. This opportunity to apply for and use State School Construction Grants is a major benefit of the bond issue, as we stand to receive nearly 28% of the value of the project from the state’s funds.

The School and Town are also kept to a strict timeline, with projects to be completed within 36 months upon receipt of the funds. Progress will be timely, efficient, and cost-effective. Elected officials of the Town Council and Board of Education who have seen the capital budget proposal that led to this bond have remarked it is one of the most well thought out and well-articulated requests they have seen. In addition, the timing is excellent for borrowing: interest rates are at all-time lows, the Towns financial credit rating is the highest possible, and we are witnessing within the Town declining debt payments within the next several years.

Please come out to support our bond request, November 6th, at your local polling station. It is no exaggeration to say the state of our schools is in your hands! Thank you!

W.Willett

Superintendent, Tolland Public Schools