

# VOTE YES FHS

## Vote YES on Thursday, December 8th

The FHS Building Committee is requesting a budget increase of \$9.7 million to cover escalating costs due to rapidly rising inflation and continuing supply chain challenges. Earlier this year the State provided the project with an additional \$14.7 million, which will completely cover the requested budget increase and reduce the overall cost to the Town by \$5 million.

### Why do we need a referendum?

- Bids for the project came in approximately 5% higher than expected, even after the FHS Building Committee cut costs several times.
- Town law requires a referendum to increase the budget of any project, regardless of funding source. **The December 8 referendum is a procedural vote.**
- The total budget increase would be covered by the State, with money left over to **further reduce the total project cost to the Town.**

### What does the requested budget increase include?

- It restores the project to its original proposal as approved by voters in 2021.
- It allows for the new FHS building to be fully constructed as originally planned and approved.

The budget increase does not add anything extra to the plan approved by voters in 2021.

### What other options did the FHS Building Committee consider?

Two other options were considered:

1. Use contingency funds and/or the Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (FF&E) budget
2. Further reduce the scope of the project.

Both options **were deemed financially irresponsible**, ultimately costing the Town more in the long term.

- Any use of contingency funds now would hold the Town liable for unanticipated costs that may arise during the construction phase.
- Any items necessary for the project would need to be included at a later date in the Town's Capital Budget and would not be eligible for State reimbursement (30%).



# VOTE YES FHS

## Will there be another request for more money in the future?

- The requested budget increase of \$9.7 million represents actual dollars that construction bidders included in their bids; they are not estimates.
- A contingency fund is included in the project to cover any unanticipated costs that could arise during the construction phase.

## What happens if the referendum fails?

- The FHS Building Committee would be forced to further reduce the project scope and/or utilize the contingency/FF&E budgets to cover costs and keep the project below the original 2021 total project budget.
- Educational programming would be impacted.
- Long-term maintenance and repair costs would be much higher.
- Any items added back into the project at a later date would not receive State reimbursement.

## Vote YES on Thursday, December 8th!

- This referendum is procedural.
- The requested budget increase is completely covered by additional State funding, and the total project cost to the Town will decrease by \$5 million.

Polls will be open from 6 am to 8 pm. Vote at your normal polling location.

## Learn More

Additional information can be found at:

- FHS Building Committee Website:  
[fhsbuildingproject.org](http://fhsbuildingproject.org)
- Comprehensive FHS Website:  
[comprehensivefhs.org](http://comprehensivefhs.org)

