

8.B. 25/26-33: Consideration/possible action: Establishment of School Building Committee to evaluate current and future facility needs for Coventry Public Schools

Town Council Action Requested: Town Council will review the request by the Board of Education to create a new School building Committee with regard to the planned program of increasing educational space for the Coventry schools, with the focus on PreK-5, and appoint at least three members of the Board of Education to the School Building Committee. Town Council will consider sending this request to the Steering Committee for review and recommendation.

Purpose: To evaluate current and future facility needs, engaging in long range planning, and ensuring that any proposed solutions are thoughtful, fiscally responsible, and aligned with the educational needs of our students and community.

History: The Town has created School Building Committees in the past to study facility needs and to oversee the projects through concept, design and construction. The School Energy & Building Efficiency Building Committee, which is the current active school building committee, was established in 2015 to consider various projects that included energy efficiency, roofs and most recently the CHS HVAC Project. The work of this Committee is winding down.

Facts about the issue: Town Council will consider sending this request to the Town Council Steering Committee for review and recommendation. If recommended by the Steering Committee, it would be expected that the Steering Committee would draft a resolution with the Committee's charge, responsibilities, and authority for Town Council to consider at a future Town Council Meeting.

Funding Information: There is no financial impact to creating a committee to study future facility needs for Coventry Public Schools. Town Council could in the future authorized funding for a project if they believed it to be warranted.

Town Manager Comments: The existing School Energy & Building Efficiency Building Committee should continue with its work and be discharged. A new School Building Committee would need to be created if it were to have a structure with three members of the Board of Education. This would also allow for the Steering Committee to carefully draft the charge and the authority for a new school building committee.

Town Manager's Recommendation: Motion to send the Board of Education's request for a School Building Committee to evaluate current and future facility needs for Coventry Public Schools to the Steering Committee for review and recommendation.