

Building Renovation Project Rangeley Lakes Regional School

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT

To determine how to best maintain our school building, over the past 15 years, the Rangeley Lakes Regional School has had 3 engineering studies, an energy audit, and an architectural review. As a result of these studies the RSU 75 School Board established a Building Committee to review the information and present options for the building needs to the RSU 75 community.

We have had two Community Forums in the last six months to gather input for necessary changes to the school and we have interviewed staff and students.

We hope these next several questions will help the community and the RSU 78 members understand what our Building Committee and School Board are presenting for a Building Renovation Project.

Why do we need a building project now? The building is nearly 40 years old. We have done a number of studies that indicate that we need to do work on the school to improve safety, to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and to create spaces that will keep pace with the 21st century learning needs.

What is presently proposed for renovations?

- a. Safety, security and ADA compliance upgrades.
- b. Renovations to the existing interior space that will foster 21st century learning, including new science labs and a high school classroom wing.
- c. An additional gym space, as well as repurposing the present gym for flexible use.

What safety issues do we have? The building entrance needs better sight lines for identifying visitors and we want all students and staff under one roof for security and safety. The building lacks a sprinkler system. Open spaces above classrooms walls create a potential fire hazard.

What do the ADA upgrades include? Major needs include a new elevator and ADA compliant accessibility at building entrances, bathrooms, locker rooms and currently inaccessible spaces (like the teacher's room). Additional smaller upgrades are needed throughout the building.

There will be more articles about the renovation project in the upcoming papers!! We will have another Community Forum to review the current project plans and would plan to vote on the approval of the plans in the early fall. With this calendar, construction could start in the summer of 2016.

The proposed architectural drawings of the renovations are at the school website, www.rangeleyschool.org. If you have questions you can contact a School Board member or Building Committee member. Their names are also on the website. Watch for a community mailing which will provide more information and building plans!!!