

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT THIRTY-NINE

Amherst, Mont Vernon, and Souhegan Cooperative School Districts

ADAM A. STEEL
Superintendent of Schools

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Assistant Superintendent

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Director of Student Services



Amherst School Board & Souhegan Cooperative & Facilities Committee Joint Meeting Agenda

Monday, December 3, 2018, 6:00PM

Souhegan High School

412 Boston Post Road

Amherst, NH 03031

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Desired Action</u>	<u>Backup Materials</u>
Call to Order	6:00 PM		
Superintendent Opening	6:00 PM	None <i>Superintendent Adam Steel will Open and Introduce Joint Facilities Chairperson, Brian Coogan</i>	
Joint Facilities Committee	6:05 PM	<i>Brian Coogan, Joint Facilities Committee Chair to present Facilities Committee Proposal</i>	JFC Proposal Document
Public Input	6:45 PM		
Meeting Adjourned	7:50 PM		

Executive Summary

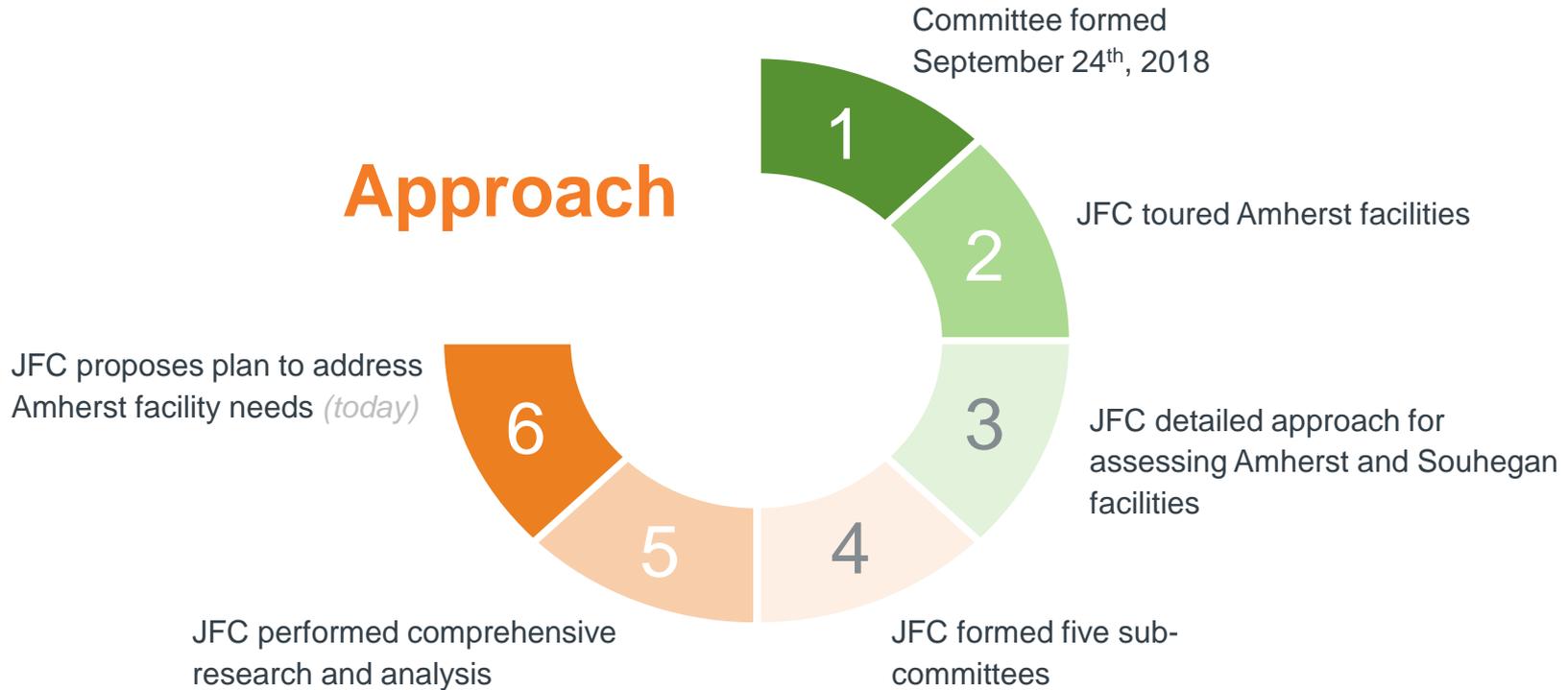
Purpose of the Joint Facilities Committee: To evaluate the current SAU39 facilities located in Amherst and assess the impacts of their current configuration, curriculum design and enrollment numbers across the district

Objective: To propose a recommendation to the Amherst and Souhegan School Boards our solution to enable a safe, appropriately outfitted facility for students, faculty and administration and to ensure each facility is efficient and cost effective for our community

Key Observations: Inconsistent investments into our educational facilities, particularly at the elementary grade levels, appear to have created a sub-optimal environment for fully realizing the potential of our students and the curriculum we've carefully curated

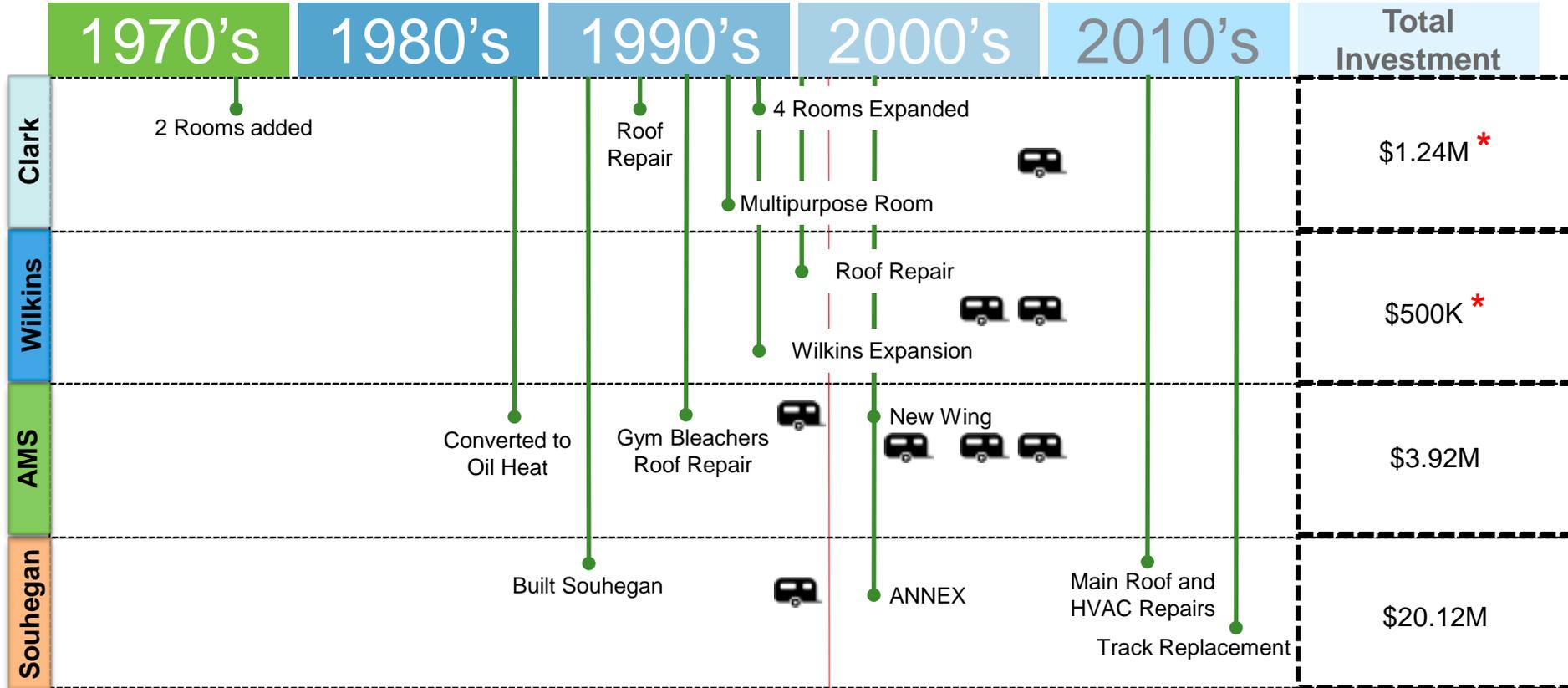


Joint Facility Committee (JFC)



A History of Facility Investment

(data collected on a best efforts / publicly available basis; note: some additional spending is not accounted for)



* \$546K to Purchase Birch Park Land Not Included

Inspiring Better Futures



HEALTH & SAFETY

- Portable classrooms are detached from the main buildings and may not benefit from the full security measures within the main building
- Portable classrooms vary in quality and recently one of two portables at Wilkins caught fire and has been decommissioned
- Inadequate temperature controls, specifically air-conditioning, have led to potential attendance issues or quality learning environments
- Poor air, light, sound quality and other environmental factors may not allow students to maximize SAU39's carefully curated curriculum
- Inadequate temperature controls and poor air quality may lead to poor attendance from the student body, faculty and administration (average daily attendance -92%)

PHYSICAL SPACE

- Portable classrooms have been in use for over two decades to support overcrowding in the main educational buildings at all four sites
- Portables are still in use at Wilkins and, due to the recent fire, classrooms had to be reconfigured, resulting in several teachers being placed on "carts" to execute upon SAU39's carefully curated curriculum (note: ~15% of Wilkins students were housed in portable classrooms in 2017-2018)
- Aging major utilities, such as HVAC, are inefficient, require costly maintenance; higher quality replacement units are energy efficient and cost effective
- Sub-optimal lighting, specifically at AMS, is inefficient and higher quality replacement units are energy efficient and cost effective
- Student traffic flow, between classrooms, appears to be sub-optimal at Wilkins and AMS
- Full-Day Kindergarten and services provided to address all learning needs require more space to benefit from our carefully curated curriculum

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT

- Over the past 30 years reinvestment into AMS, Clark and Wilkins does not appear to be sufficient
 - 11 of 14 warrant articles for Clark/Wilkins have passed, for \$1.7M (27% of total proposed \$'s)
 - 8 of 14 warrant articles for AMS have passed, for \$3.9M (13% of total proposed \$'s)
 - 4 of 8 warrant articles for Souhegan have passed, for \$20.1M (80% of total proposed \$'s)
- Proposed maintenance costs to support aging and non-energy efficient SAU39 facilities located in Amherst are projected at cost approximately \$1M annually
- Lack of a capital improvements fund places a high degree of variability into the reinvestment of SAU39 facilities located in Amherst

ALIGN SAU39 STRATEGIC VISION WITH AMHERST/MOUNT VERNON PRIORITIES

JFC Proposal

1. Engage educational facilities professionals to evaluate each of the SAU39 facilities located in Amherst to determine the optimal configuration and program for each building in parallel with the Souhegan 2.0 project
2. Propose a warrant article to the residents of Amherst to approve or reject \$225,000.00 in funding to seek professional assistance in evaluating:
 1. Facilities study to evaluate short and long term viability of each Amherst building
 2. Programing and visioning (interview staff to understand how space is used today and identify missing or needed spaces)
 3. District wide mapping to explore various grade level configurations
 4. Site design to fit masterplan visioning
 5. Conceptual building designs for optimal educational facilities
3. JFC communication plan to provide a framework and timeline for the project to ensure Amherst residents and community members are well informed of all phases, key decisions and major milestones of this effort