

# ARTICLE 5 – NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

## VOTE NO -- \$103 Million is Enough!

- We need a new Middle School and we supported it in January 2022.
- We have already approved \$103M to design and build a Middle School. Since January, interest rates and building costs have risen, so that the design that was presented to us a year ago can no longer be built for \$103M. *It's time to look seriously at what we can build for \$103M.*
- Costs have increased for all of us—food, gasoline, heating costs, utilities have all gone up. Income has not gone up for most of us, so we have learned to look for ways to cut costs in our households and lifestyles. We have learned to distinguish between “wants” and “needs.” Many residents and businesses are struggling.
- The \$103M plus this new \$7.2 M comes to \$110M. That is more than Concord paid for three elementary schools and the new high school combined (\$99,048,334 for all 4 buildings, after deducting State Aid and Carlisle’s share of CCHS).
- We will be paying off the debt from the three elementary schools until FY30 and the high school until FY39. This \$7.2M will be added to that. Other Town projects have been deferred during the school building boom, and these will be before us for funding in the near future.
- The estimated tax impact for the median priced home of the already approved \$103M (once fully funded using a 30-year term) is \$1,079.38/year. The tax bill that we recently received already reflects \$131 of that increase. The request under Article 5 will add an estimated \$74/year. The amount may seem small compared to what has already been approved, but it is the cumulative effect—when do we recognize that Enough is Enough? Over 33% of our residents are seniors, and many are living on fixed incomes. To find the annual estimated impact for your property, go to <https://concordma.gov/2967/calculator>.
- The enlarged gym and auditorium were not requested by the Superintendent as part of the Educational Plan. They were added for the benefit of the community, following significant lobbying by a group of individuals and youth sports participants. Can other funding be sought to offset the capital costs for the Town? Can the spaces be reduced to conform to state guidelines? Can some aspects be phased over time? Can some of the “extras” be eliminated?

## WE URGE A NO VOTE ON ARTICLE 5

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