

SCHOOL BOARD WARRANT ARTICLE 3

Rye School Buildings

Rye School Building Needs



Article 3:

To see if the School District will vote to establish a Committee ("Committee") to study the long-term enrollment projections and consider how to best use the current School District properties to best meet the educational needs of Rye students while striving for fiscally responsible proposals. Such options may include merging two buildings, permitting the use of part of the buildings for other Town functions, and conferring with SAU 50 administrators and other SAU 50 school boards to determine whether there may be other mutually beneficial program structures for the SAU 50 prekindergarten through 8th grade student population. The Committee shall be appointed by the School Board in consultation with the Selectman, to include members from relevant town committees, citizens with specific expertise, and other citizens of the Town of Rye. The Committee should self-elect a chairperson. The Committee should provide a report to the town prior to December 1, 2017, with recommendations for next steps. The Committee shall disband following the 2018 Town Election. (Submitted by resident petition.)

The Rye School Board recommends this warrant article.
(Vote 5-0)

ITEMS TO CONSIDER

- This warrant article simply forms a committee. There is **no** appropriation to spend dollars.
- The School Board supports this warrant article.
- The enrollment has been declining in our schools.
- One option this committee might consider is a single K-8 school.
- There are significant redundant costs associated with having two separate schools.
- Reducing overhead could enable funds for improved educational instruction.
- The committee will simply provide recommendations for the town to consider, based upon their research.
- The potential use and available space in the schools, could inform decisions for other town facilities.
- The committee will include members from relevant town committees and citizens with related expertise and interest.
- A report will be produced by December 2017.

Consider ways to improve the learning in Rye, reduce costs, and collaborate between the schools and town committees.

What does this mean?

This warrant article will simply create a committee to consider how to use the Rye school buildings to best serve the students of Rye. Currently, Rye Elementary School houses K-5 students, Rye Junior High houses grades 6-8, and high school students attend Portsmouth High School. Additionally, a small number (typically 5-10) students from New Castle also attend Rye Junior High. Our enrollments are fairly low with approximately 150 students at RJH and 280 at RES. Other surrounding districts are able to provide enhanced services by reduced overhead with a single K-8 school (e.g. North Hampton & Greenland). A single school building could be a beneficial option for Rye. There may also be opportunities to receive students from other districts, or send students to districts, in order to increase student learning and improve efficiencies.