

School Modernization in Vermont

A Brief Presentation to Senate Education Committee

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The Context: Working Group

- **H209**
 - **Misc. Education Bill**
 - **Ad Hoc Group formed**
 - Superintendents
 - Architects
 - Facility Directors
 - Agency of Education
 - VT Community Bond Bank
 - **Met Summer and Fall 2019**
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The Context: Historical

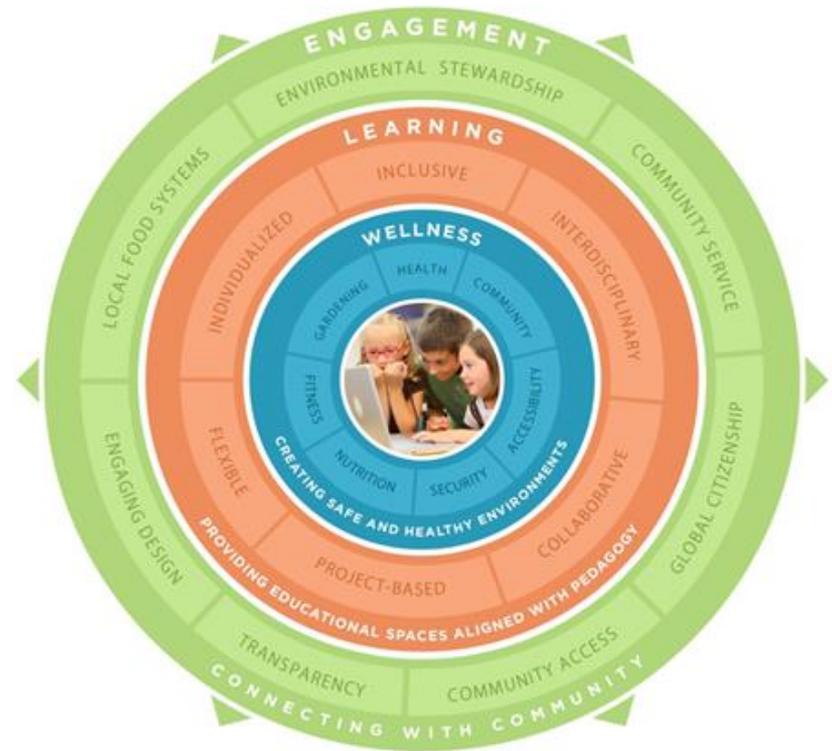
- **1892**: Local towns were forced to consolidate their 2500 boards into 279.
 - **1923**: Supervisory Unions formed
 - **1950-60s** Union High School era
 - **1990s** - Last population boom - additions built - that work is now 30 years old
 - Little significant work since then - result is **many buildings in poor condition**
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The Context: Facility Conditions



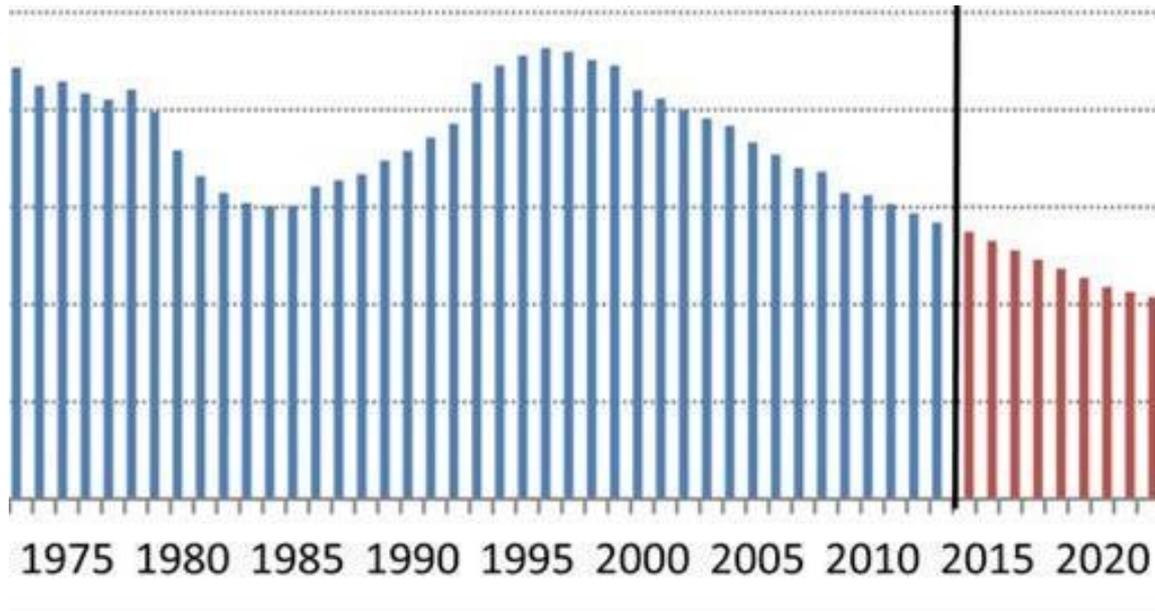
The Context: Education

- Changed from teacher-centered instruction to student-centered learning
- More student needs – more support services
- New paradigm has different space needs than past
- Education has changed – buildings have not



The Context: Enrollment

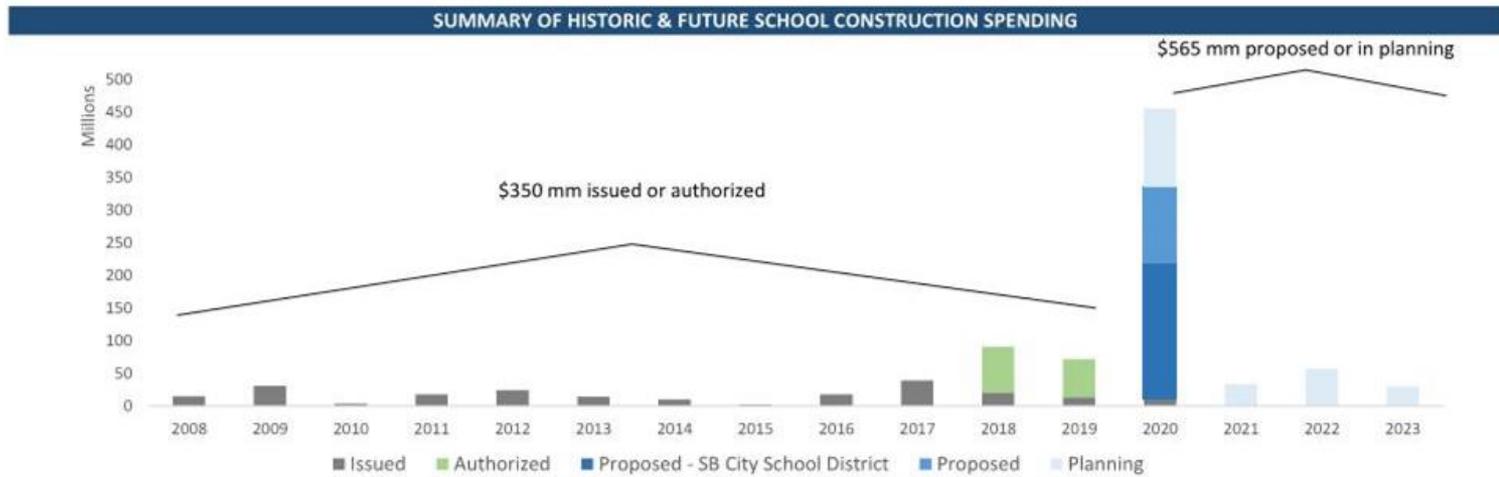
- Declining enrollment in many rural areas



The Context: Moratorium

- Enacted in 2007 due to backlog of projects
 - No state school construction program since then - now huge backlog of projects and demand
 - Consequence: state does not have a big hand in directing how resources are allocated across the state.
 - Result is increased inequity in the quality of education between rich and poor towns
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The Context: Growing Needs



SUMMARY OF HISTORIC & FUTURE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION SPENDING

Year	Authorized	Issued	Planning	Proposed	Proposed - SB City SD	Total	Avg Size	Count		
								< \$10 mm	>= \$20 mm	>= \$40 mm
2008		\$15,210,000				\$15,210,000	\$1,267,500	12	0	0
2009		30,795,000				30,795,000	5,132,500	5	1	0
2010		3,715,000				3,715,000	928,750	4	0	0
2011		17,880,000				17,880,000	2,235,000	8	0	0
2012		24,519,367				24,519,367	1,532,460	16	0	0
2013		14,609,000				14,609,000	2,434,833	6	0	0
2014		10,210,000				10,210,000	1,276,250	8	0	0
2015		1,930,000				1,930,000	643,333	3	0	0
2016		18,190,000				18,190,000	2,598,571	7	0	0
2017		39,384,431				39,384,431	6,564,072	5	0	0
2018	70,000,000	20,909,500				90,909,500	11,363,688	7	1	1
2019	58,000,000	13,899,513				71,899,513	14,379,903	4	1	1
2020		10,567,000	120,000,000	114,900,000	210,000,000	455,467,000	37,955,583	5	7	4
2021			33,300,000			33,300,000	5,550,000	5	0	0
2022			57,000,000			57,000,000	19,000,000	2	1	1
2023			30,000,000			30,000,000	30,000,000	0	1	0
Total	\$128,000,000	\$221,818,811	\$240,300,000	\$114,900,000	\$210,000,000	\$915,018,811	\$8,243,413	97	12	7
Post 2019	\$0	\$10,567,000	\$240,300,000	\$114,900,000	\$210,000,000	\$575,767,000	\$26,171,227	12	9	5

The Context: Surrounding States

- All surrounding states (and all states in NE) have school construction programs.
- Vermont will fall behind its neighbors and will become less competitive in attracting companies and individuals to the state



The Context: Surrounding States

	VT	RI	NH	ME	MA
State Information					
State Population	626,299	1,057,000	1,356,000	1,338,000	6,902,000
Number of Schools	250	304	481	600	1863
Number of Students	83,710	143,436	177,365	182,496	951,631
School Construction Program					
Moratorium	2007 to present	2011 - 2015	2011-2020	None	2004-2007
Estimate of Need	Unknown	\$3b	Unknown	Unknown	\$24b audited to date
Governing Body	N/A	AOE/SBA	AOE	AOE	MSBA
Funding Source	N/A	\$250m bond 2018	Appropriation	Appropriation	1% Sales Tax
Max Reimbursement	N/A	None	\$50m per project	None	None
Percentage Reimbursement range	N/A	35% to 90%	30% to 60%	Unknown	31% to 80%
Criteria/Bonus Incentives	N/A	Health/Safety, Replacement, Consolidation, Educational Enhancements, Decrease Overcrowding, Increase Utilization	Maintenance, FRL, Security, Consolidation, Energy Efficiency, Historic Pres	Safety, Health, Educational Appropriatenes, System Deficiencies, Overcrowding, Enrollment	Community Income, Wealth, Poverty, Energy Efficiency, Maintenance, Overlay Zoning, Renovation
Ranking System	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Guaranteed Reimbursement	N/A	Yes?	No	Unknown	No

The Opportunities

- **Educational Quality**

- Better learning environments help lead to better educational outcomes
- Reggio Familia: the learning environment as The Third Teacher

- **Educational Equity**

- Helps poorer communities improve their facilities
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The Opportunities

- **Economic Development**

- Attracts people to the state
- Provides design and construction jobs

- **Workforce Development**

- Provides modern facilities geared towards today's industries

- **Resource efficiency**

- Helps shape how taxpayer dollars are directed
 - Helps reduce duplication of effort in nearby towns
 - Directs school development in alignment with state goals
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Program Framework Ideas

- A statewide **stewardship program** for K-12 public schools in Vermont **that promotes modern high-quality learning environments** throughout the state



Program Framework Ideas

- The components of this program should include:
 - A **statewide survey** and database of all schools that includes important facility data
 - **Financial incentives** to school districts to modernize their facilities
 - **Criteria** to rank school needs
 - Healthy and energy efficient **building standards**
 - A **Facilities Director** or equivalent at each school district
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Program Framework Ideas

- The components of this program should include:
 - Requirement that each district provide an updated **Facilities Master Plan** every 5 years
 - **Additional Staff** and Advisory Board as required to support this program at the AOE
 - **Planning grants** for communities to create strategies for re-purposing of closing schools
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Moving Forward

- Fund a **statewide assessment** of school buildings to determine the scope of the issue.
 - Create an **official study group** with appropriate stakeholders to craft a proposal for consideration by legislature next year
 - Direct the **state treasurer's** office to work with the study committee to model multiple funding options.
 - **Fund an AOE position** to support this effort.
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