

F.O.I. Compliance – Subject to BOE approval at a future meeting

JOINT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Date: October 6, 2022

Regular Meeting – John Winthrop Middle School Library

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION:

David Fitzgibbons, Stuart Johnson, Jan Taigen, Dale Bernardoni, Faith Sprigg, Rebecca Greenberg-Ellis, Maria Scherber

DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Miriam Morrissey, Betsy Scholfield, Pat Maikowski, Nick Rioux, Alyson Whelan, Melissa McIntyre

ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Lon Seidman, Mark Watson, Marjorie Russell, Nancy Johnston

REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Kate Sandmann, Jane Cavanaugh, Lon Seidman, John Stack, Jennifer Clark

Also in attendance: Brian White, Superintendent; Sarah Brzozowy, Assistant Superintendent; Robert Grissom, Finance Director; Sarah Smalley, Director of Pupil Services

CALL TO ORDER and Verbal Roll Call

Supervision District Committee Chair Miriam Morrissey called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m.

The Chairs of the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards called their respective Boards to order at 7:15p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly made and seconded the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards unanimously **VOTED** to accept the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the regular meeting of June 2, 2022 and the Joint BOE Retreat September 24, 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment

REPORTS AND OTHER ITEMS

District Update

Superintendent White shared an update. He gave an overview of his goals.

Information and Communication

Discussion held regarding the approach we use for addressing the Superintendent's contract. Board feedback will be received and a process developed.

Summary of Superintendent's Goals for 2022-23 as Presented to Supervision District earlier this evening

Mr. White briefly discussed his goals for the year.

Review of Possible VOTE to Approve the Proposed Calendar of BOE Meetings for Jan-Dec 2023

Discussion held regarding having meeting invitations for in person meetings, sent out to Board members through Google Calendar.

On motion duly made and seconded the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards unanimously **VOTED** to approve the proposed calendar of Board of Education Meetings for January -December 2023.

Discussion and Possible VOTE to Adopt the CSDE Approved Flexibilities Amendment to the Educator Evaluation and Support Plan (Adopted by the Joint BOE on June 4, 2015) for 2022-23 School Year.

On motion duly made and seconded the Essex, Deep River and Region 4 Boards unanimously **VOTED** to adopt the CSDE approved Flexibilities amendment to the Educator Evaluation and Support Plan (adopted by the Joint BOE and June 4, 2015) for the 2022-23 school year. Chester Ayes: Stuart Johnston, Jan Taigen, Maria Scherber, Faith Sprigg, Dale Bernardoni and David Fitzgibbons Nays: Rebecca Greenberg-Ellis. The motion passed.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Assistant Superintendent Brzozowy shared a general update. Professional Development will be held on November 8th and will be a Day of Choice for staff. Core curricular program data is being released by the State. This is being analyzed.

Finance Director's Report

There was no Finance Director report this evening.

Other Items

Presentation Regarding PK-12 Outcomes of Comprehensive Building Study

Mr. Smolley gave an overview of the building study for the entire district. Each district's board of education has had a presentation relating to their schools. Schools are well maintained. At this time enrollments continue to decline. Repairs and renovation reimbursement from the State was discussed. Building configuration possibilities were discussed. The finalized document will be available very soon from Mr. Smolley. Capital plans will be developed with the towns. The educational needs of students will also be evaluated. Five Year Strategic Priorities are being developed and will be part of this dialogue.

Follow-Up Presentation Regarding Proposal for Full-Day PreK

Ms. Smalley presented a follow-up to last year's initial presentation regarding a proposal for full-day Pre K. There is a need to increase our Pre K offerings. There is a wait list for students. A discussion of surrounding districts guidelines was held. Budget funding will be discussed in the future. A survey will be conducted to get a sense of the number of kids eligible next year. Please email your Board Chair if you have questions.

Committee Reports

Finance

Next Meeting October 19, 2022

Curriculum

Next Meeting October 19, 2022

Policy

Next Meeting October 20, 2022

Ad Hoc Committees (As Needed)

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Next regular Joint BOE meeting – December 1, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.

***ADJOURNMENT:**

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, and Essex Boards unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:49 p.m

*The Region 4 Board stayed in session for the following Region 4 Only business:

R4 BOE took a brief recess and resumed the meeting at 8:52 PM

Present: Kate Sandman, Jennifer Clark, Jane Cavanaugh, John Stack and Lon Seidman, Bob Grissom, Brian White and Sarah Brzozowy.

Discussion and Possible VOTE to Approve a Proposed VRHS Music Department Trip to the WorldStrides Heritage Music Festival in Washington DC Thursday, April 27 – Sunday April 30, 2023.

Sarah Brzozowy presented the slides on the proposal for Heritage Music Festival, a music department-sponsored student trip to Washington DC. The goals, itinerary, costs, timeline, chaperones and insurance questions were discussed.

It was moved by Jane Cavanaugh and seconded by John Stack to approve the proposal for the VRHS Music Department Trip to the World Strides Heritage Music Festival in Washington D.C. (Thurs., April 27 – Sun., April 30, 2023). This was unanimously approved.

Possible VOTE to Accept the Donation of a Lenovo Laptop and Vmix License Valued at Approximately \$2,200 to Valley Regional High School from Lon Seidman.

Lon Seidman then presented his proposal to donate a Lenovo Laptop and Vmix license valued at approx. \$2,200 to Valley Regional to enhance and expand the videography skills of our students. A proof of concept study has already been conducted and it worked beautifully.

Upon a motion made by Jane Cavanaugh and seconded by Jennifer Clark the Region 4 Board of Education **VOTED** to accept this donation. It was unanimously approved.

***ADJOURNMENT:**

On motion duly made and seconded, the Region 4 BOE unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 9:01p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelley Frazier, Clerk

The Schools of Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4

COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

SCHOOL FACILITIES PHYSICAL –
CONDITIONS ASSESSENT

Joint Board Meeting 6 October 2022

DRA

Regional School District #4 Schools

- DISTRICT OFFICES

RSD #4

Winthrop Road, Deep River
- ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Deep River Elementary School | K - 6

12 River Street, Deep River

Chester Elementary School | K - 6

23 Ridge Road, Chester

Essex Elementary School | PK - 6

108 Main Street, Centerbrook

MIDDLE SCHOOL

John Winthrop Middle School | 7 - 8

1 Winthrop Road, Deep River

HIGH SCHOOL

Valley Regional High School | 9 - 12

256 Kelsey Hill Road, Deep River

6 BUILDINGS | 3 ES | 1 MS | 1 HS

The map displays the geographical layout of Regional School District #4, which encompasses parts of Deep River, Chester, and Centerbrook, Connecticut. A thick blue line delineates the district's boundary. Within this boundary, dashed blue lines indicate the attendance zones for the five schools. The schools are marked with colored circles: a blue circle for the District Offices, three orange circles for elementary schools (Deep River, Chester, and Essex), a purple circle for the middle school (John Winthrop), and an orange circle for the high school (Valley Regional). The map also shows major roads (CT 80, CT 145, CT 148, CT 153, CT 155, CT 82, CT 149), the Connecticut River, and the Cockaponset State Forest. Various landmarks such as the Chester Airport, Incarnation Center, and several parks and preserves are labeled. Elevation points are marked with small triangles and their respective heights in meters. The text '6 BUILDINGS | 3 ES | 1 MS | 1 HS' is located in the top right corner of the map area.

DRA

Agenda – 6 October 2022

1. Building Assessments

2. Cost Projections



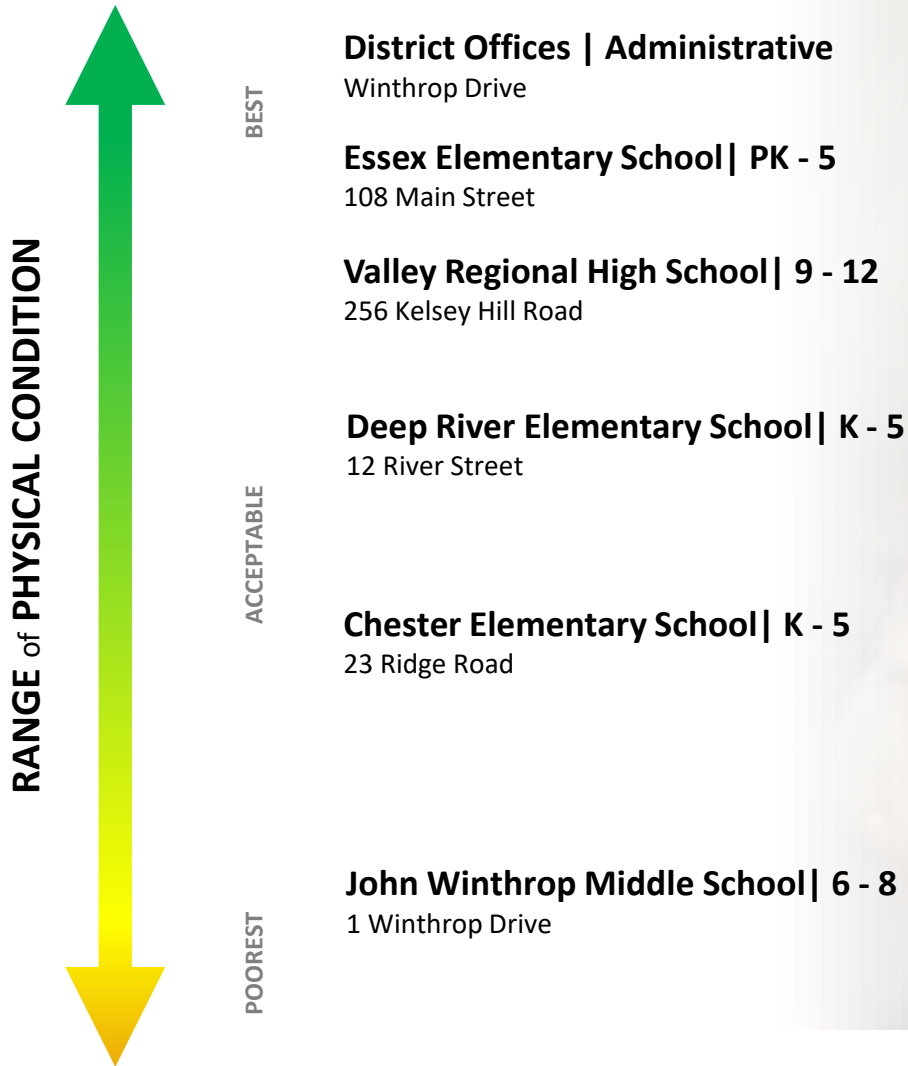
Agenda – 6 October 2022

1. Building Assessments

2. Cost Projections



Physical Conditions Assessment

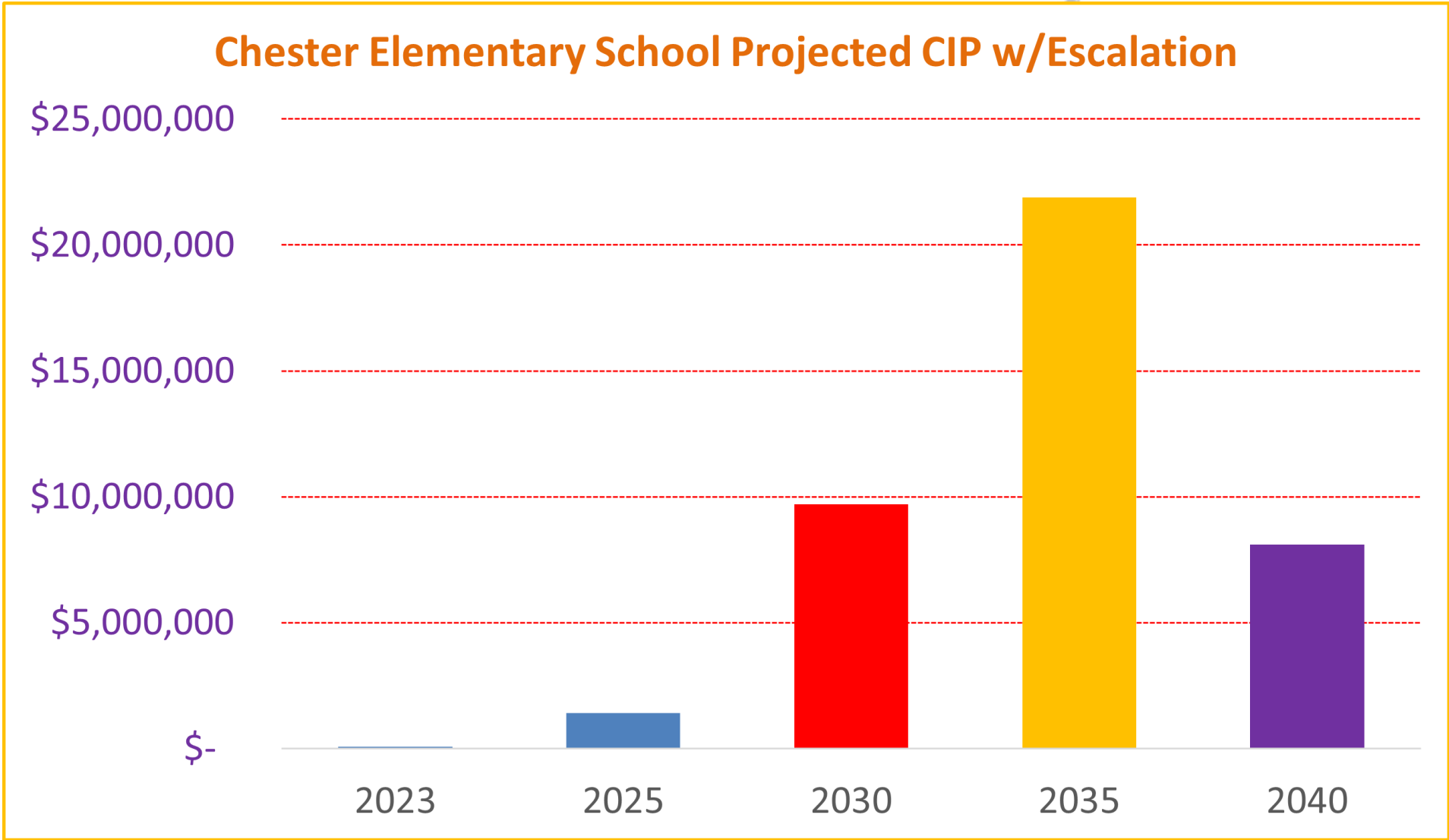




Assessment Summary

- Building is overall in fair to good condition
- More than \$40,000,000 in projected expenditures over the next 17 years
- Largest expenditure projected for FY 2035

Facilities Assessment – Chester Elementary School



2023: \$75,625
2025: \$1,414,982
2030: \$9,693,126
2035: \$21,881,087
2040: \$8,092,339
Total:
\$41,157,159

Facilities Assessment – Chester Elementary School

REIMBURSEABLE SQUARE FOOTAGE	Students	SF/student	Total
SF/Student - Elementary School	165	125.00	20,625
SF/Student - Middle School	36	151.00	5,436
SF/Student - High School	0		
Maximum Reimbursable Gross Square Feet			26,061

PROGRAM AREAS	New	Exist SF	Total SF	# Instr A
Academic Core	0	18,528	18,528	28
Special Education	0	260	260	
Administration	0	2,013	2,013	
Media Center	0	2,114	2,114	
Visual Arts	0	935	935	1
Music	0	0	0	0
Performing Arts / Auditorium	0	1,002	1,002	0
Life Skills/Tech/Bus Education	0	0	0	0
Physical Education	0	5,085	5,085	0
Student Dining	0	3,205	3,205	
Food Service	0	920	920	
Custodial	0	0	0	
Subtotal - Net Square Feet	0	34,062	34,062	29
Building Services	0	11,473	11,473	
Subtotal - Net SF including Building Service	0	45,535	45,535	
Construction Factor	0.11	0.11	0.16	
Total Gross SF Programmed - Funded	0	50,544	52,722	

The difference between existing building and OSCG&R Space Guidelines is 21,695 square feet



Suitability Summary

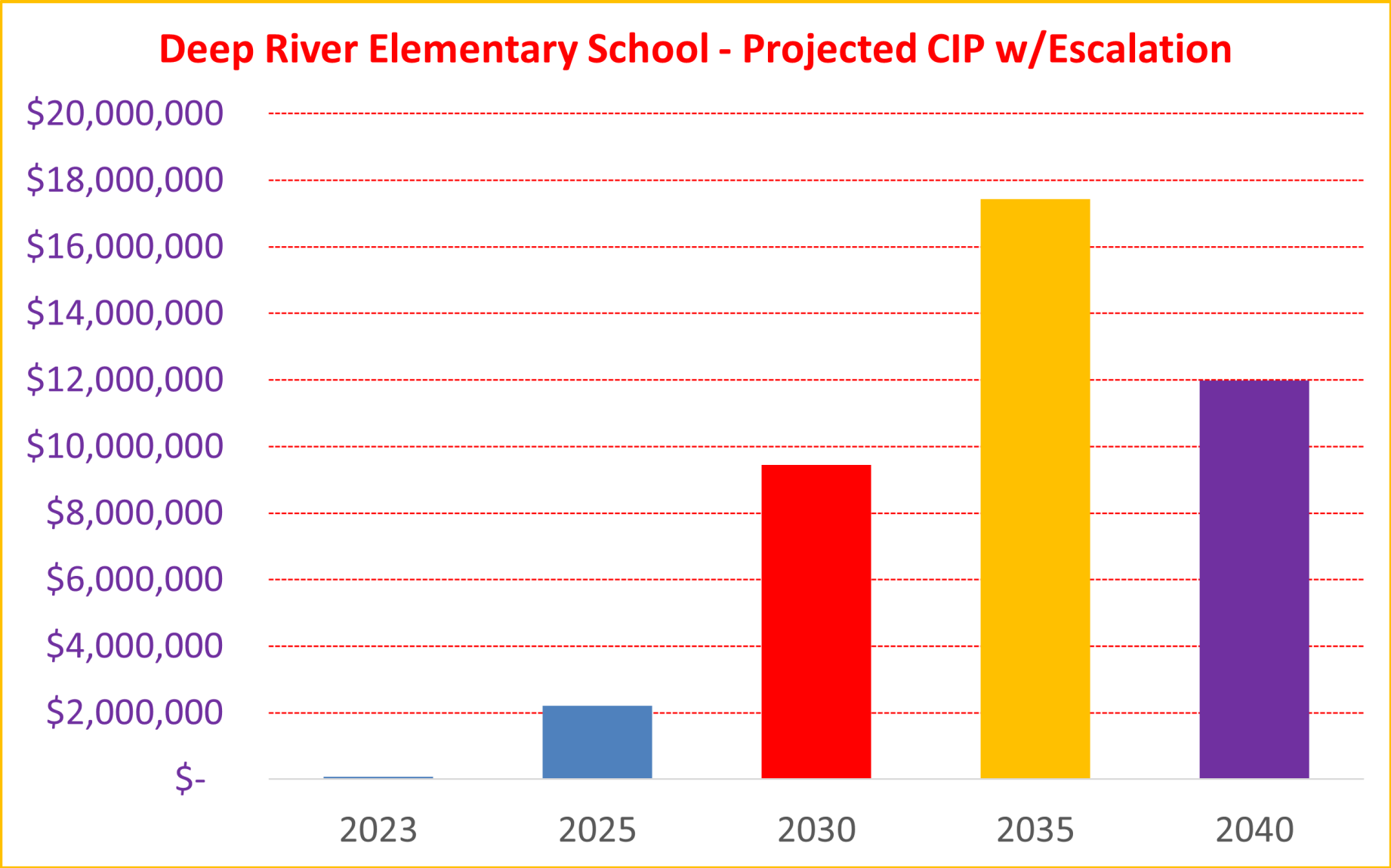
- Highest projected enrollment is 220 students
- School capacity by OSCG&R is ~700 students
- School capacity by District guidelines is ~450



Assessment Summary

- Building is overall in good condition
- More than \$40,000,000 in projected expenditures over the next 17 years
- Largest expenditure projected for FY 2035

Facilities Assessment – Deep River Elementary School



2023:	\$75,625
2025:	\$2,211,753
2030:	\$9,441,086
2035:	\$17,430,443
2040:	\$11,985,769
Total:	\$41,144,676

Facilities Assessment – Deep River Elementary School

REIMBURSEABLE SQUARE FOOTAGE	Students	SF/student	Total	SF/Student Range
SF/Student - Elementary School	165	125.00	20,625	104-125
SF/Student - Middle School	36	151.00	5,436	119-151
SF/ Student - High School	0			163-187
Maximum Reimbursable Gross Square Feet			26,061	

PROGRAM AREAS	New	Exist SF	Total SF	# Instr Area
Academic Core	0	18,528	18,528	28
Special Education	0	260	260	
Administration	0	2,013	2,013	
Media Center	0	2,114	2,114	
Visual Arts	0	935	935	1
Music	0	0	0	0
Performing Arts / Auditorium	0	1,002	1,002	0
Life Skills/Tech/Bus Education	0	0	0	0
Physical Education	0	5,085	5,085	0
Student Dining	0	3,205	3,205	
Food Service	0	920	920	
Custodial	0	0	0	
Subtotal - Net Square Feet	0	34,062	34,062	29
Building Services	0	11,473	11,473	
Subtotal - Net SF including Building Service	0	45,535	45,535	
Construction Factor	0.11	0.11	0.16	
Total Gross SF Programmed - Funded	0	50,544	52,722	

The difference between existing building and OSCG&R Space Guidelines is 26,661 square feet



Suitability Summary

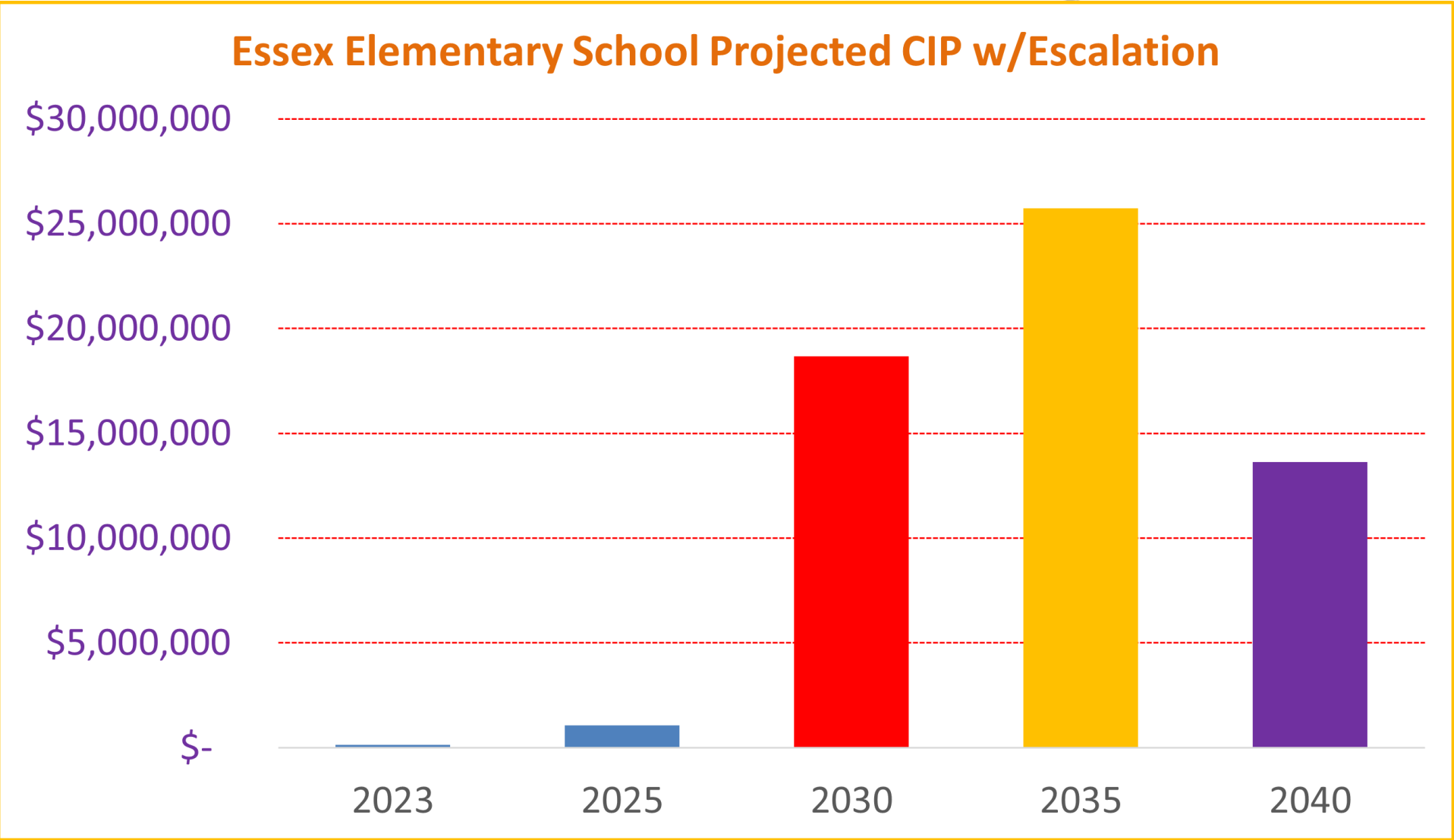
- Highest projected enrollment is 201 students
- School capacity by OSCG&R is ~700 students
- School capacity by District guidelines is ~450



Assessment Summary

- Building is overall in good condition
- Almost \$60,000,000 in projected expenditures over the next 17 years
- Largest expenditure projected for FY 2035

Facilities Assessment – Essex Elementary School



2023: \$148,225
2025: \$1,074,439
2030: \$18,682,078
2035: \$25,730,807
2040: \$13,617,928
Total:
\$59,253,477

Facilities Assessment – Essex Elementary School

REIMBURSEABLE SQUARE FOOTAGE	Students	SF/student	Total
SF/Student - Elementary School	297	125.00	37,125
SF/Student - Middle School	62	151.00	9,362
SF/ Student - High School	0		
Maximum Reimbursable Gross Square Feet			46,487

PROGRAM AREAS	New	Exist SF	Total SF	# Instr Area
Academic Core	0	32,057	32,057	38
Special Education	0	1,345	1,345	
Administration	0	2,321	2,321	
Media Center	0	3,081	3,081	
Visual Arts	0	980	980	1
Music	0	520	520	1
Performing Arts / Auditorium	0	1,010	1,010	0
Life Skills/Tech/Bus Education	0	0	0	0
Physical Education	0	6,080	6,080	0
Student Dining	0	3,231	3,231	
Food Service	0	1,575	1,575	
Custodial	0	450	450	
Subtotal - Net Square Feet	0	52,650	52,650	40
Building Services	0	15,213	15,213	
Subtotal - Net SF including Building Service	0	67,863	67,863	
Construction Factor	0.11	0.11	0.18	
Total Gross SF Programmed - Funded	0	75,328	80,265	

The difference between existing building and OSCG&R Space Guidelines is 33,778 square feet



Suitability Summary

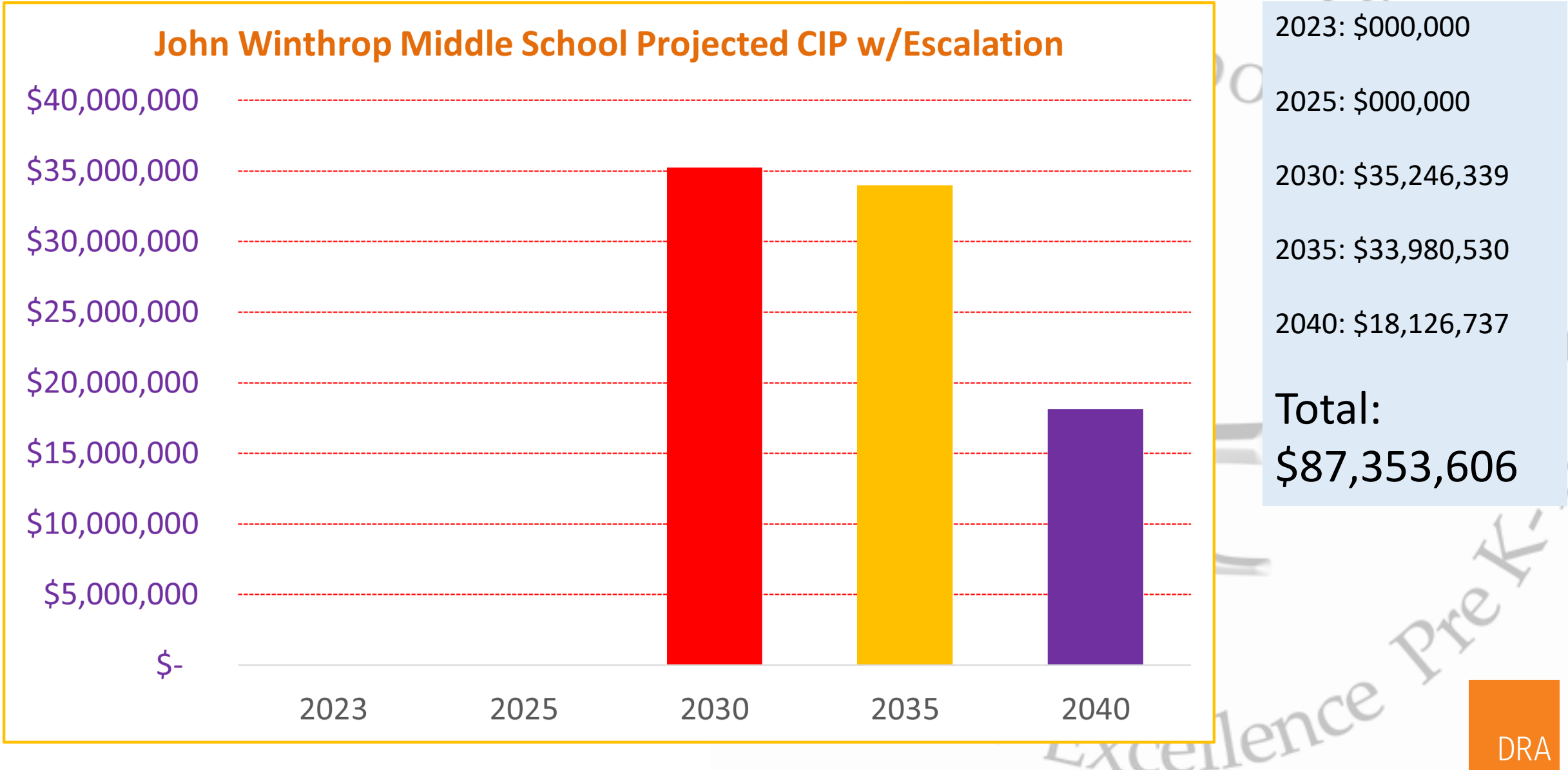
- Highest projected enrollment is 359 students
- School capacity by OSCG&R is ~950 students
- School capacity by District guidelines is ~610



Assessment Summary

- Building is overall in fair condition
- Over \$86,000,000 in projected expenditures over the next 17 years
- Largest expenditure projected for FY 2030

Facilities Assessment – Winthrop Middle School



Facilities Assessment – Winthrop Middle School

Maximum Reimbursable Gross Square Feet

36,240

PROGRAM AREAS	New	Exist SF	Total SF	# Instr Area
Academic Core	0	26,471	26,471	25
Special Education	0	0	0	
Administration	0	3,555	3,555	
Media Center	0	5,122	5,122	
Visual Arts	0	1,200	1,200	1
Music	0	1,995	1,995	2
Performing Arts / Auditorium	0	6,840	6,840	1
Life Skills/Tech/Bus Education	0	980	980	1
Physical Education	0	12,275	12,275	2
Student Dining	0	4,770	4,770	
Food Service	0	2,790	2,790	
Custodial	0	756	756	
Subtotal - Net Square Feet	0	66,754	66,754	32
Building Services	0	24,674	24,674	
Subtotal - Net SF including Building Service	0	91,428	91,428	
Construction Factor	0.11	0.11	0.42	
Total Gross SF Programmed - Funded	0	101,485	129,600	

The difference between existing building and OSCG&R Space Guidelines is 93,360 square feet



Suitability Summary

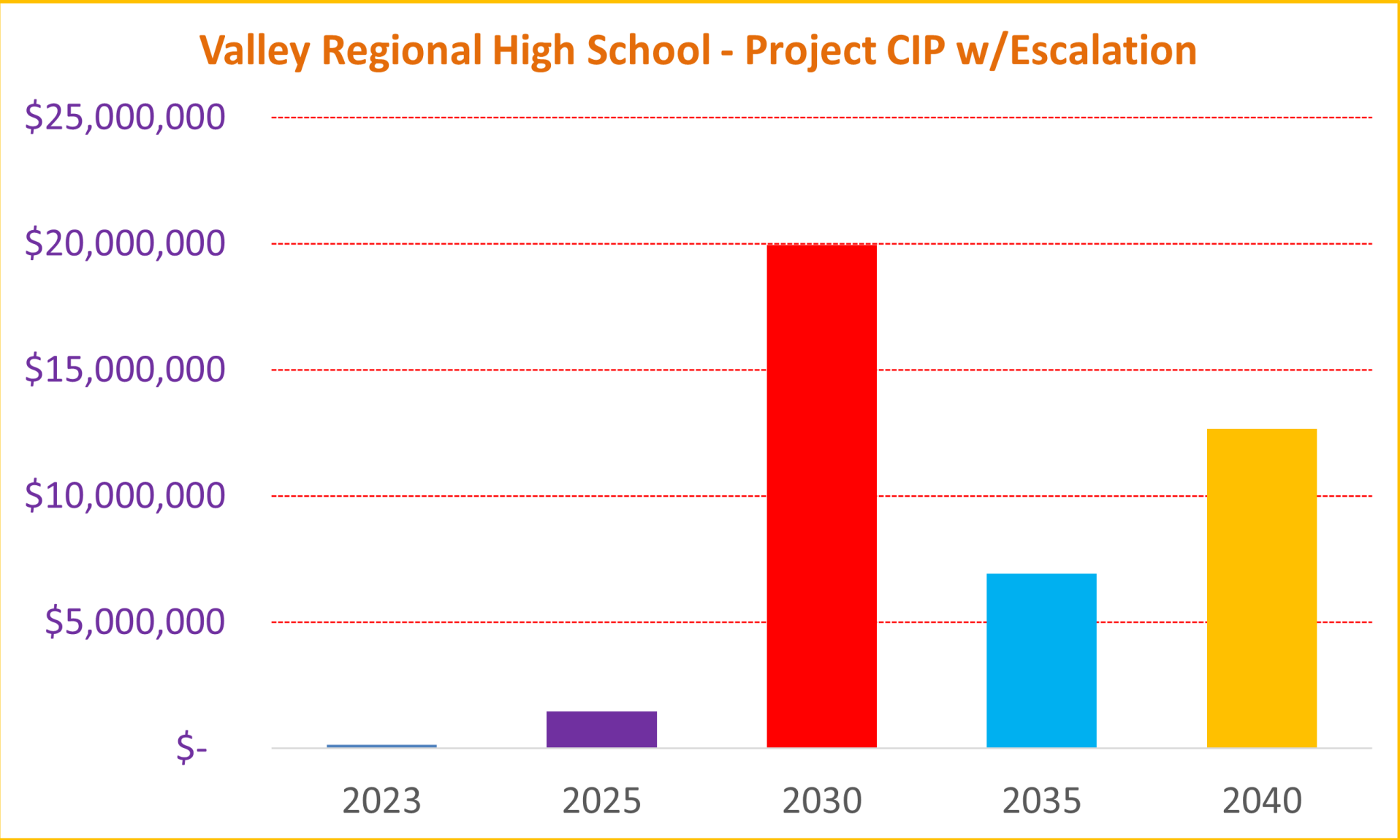
- Highest projected enrollment is 234 students
- School capacity by OSCG&R is ~800 students
- School capacity by District guidelines is ~575



Assessment Summary

- Building is overall in fair condition
- Over \$102,000,000 in projected expenditures over the next 17 years
- Largest expenditure projected for FY 2030

Facilities Assessment – Valley Regional High School



2023:	\$151,250
2025:	\$1,700,613
2030:	\$45,105,992
2035:	\$15,595,785
2040:	\$39,968,500
Total:	\$102,522,139

Facilities Assessment – Valley Regional High School

Maximum Reimbursable Gross Square Feet

88,660

PROGRAM AREAS	New	Exist SF	Total SF	# Instr Area
Academic Core	0	25,735	25,735	31
Special Education	0	3,000	3,000	
Administration	0	4,410	4,410	
Media Center	0	6,400	6,400	
Visual Arts	0	2,120	2,120	1
Music	0	3,974	3,974	2
Performing Arts / Auditorium	0	10,266	10,266	1
Life Skills/Tech/Bus Education	0	3,660	3,660	2
Physical Education	0	14,810	14,810	3
Student Dining	0	3,840	3,840	
Food Service	0	1,714	1,714	
Custodial	0	400	400	
Subtotal - Net Square Feet	0	80,329	80,329	40
Building Services	0	31,846	31,846	
Subtotal - Net SF including Building Service	0	112,175	112,175	
Construction Factor	0.11	0.11	0.25	
Total Gross SF Programmed - Funded	0	124,514	140,000	

The difference between existing building and OSCG&R Space Guidelines is 51,340 square feet



Suitability Summary

- Highest projected enrollment is 508 students
- School capacity by OSCG&R is ~925 students
- School capacity by District guidelines is ~700

Assessment Summary

- Immediate needs (2023 -2025) ~\$2 million
- Significant investment projected for 2030
- Considerable investment projected for 2035 & 2040

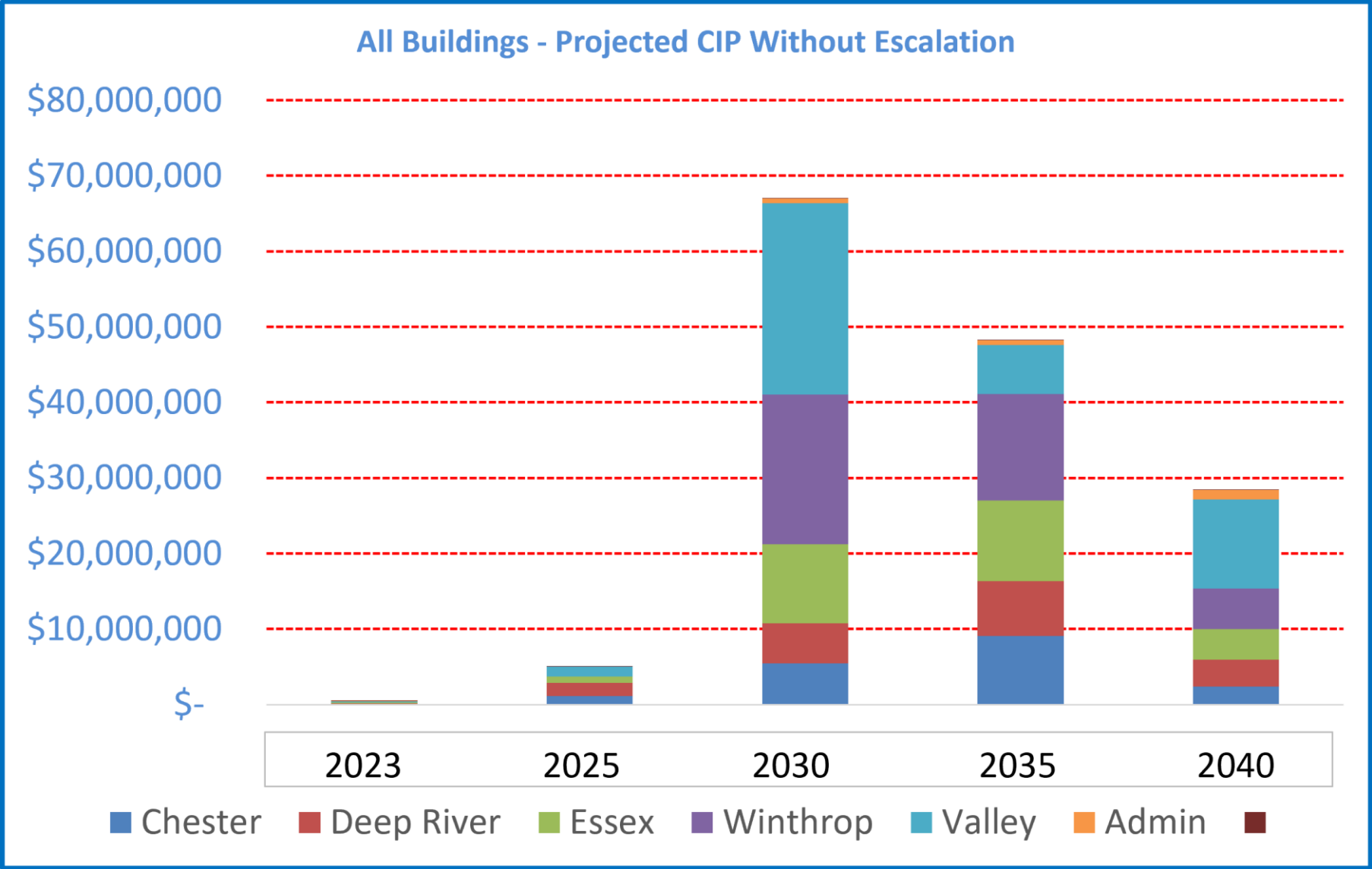
Agenda – 6 October 2022

1. Building Assessments

2. Cost Projections



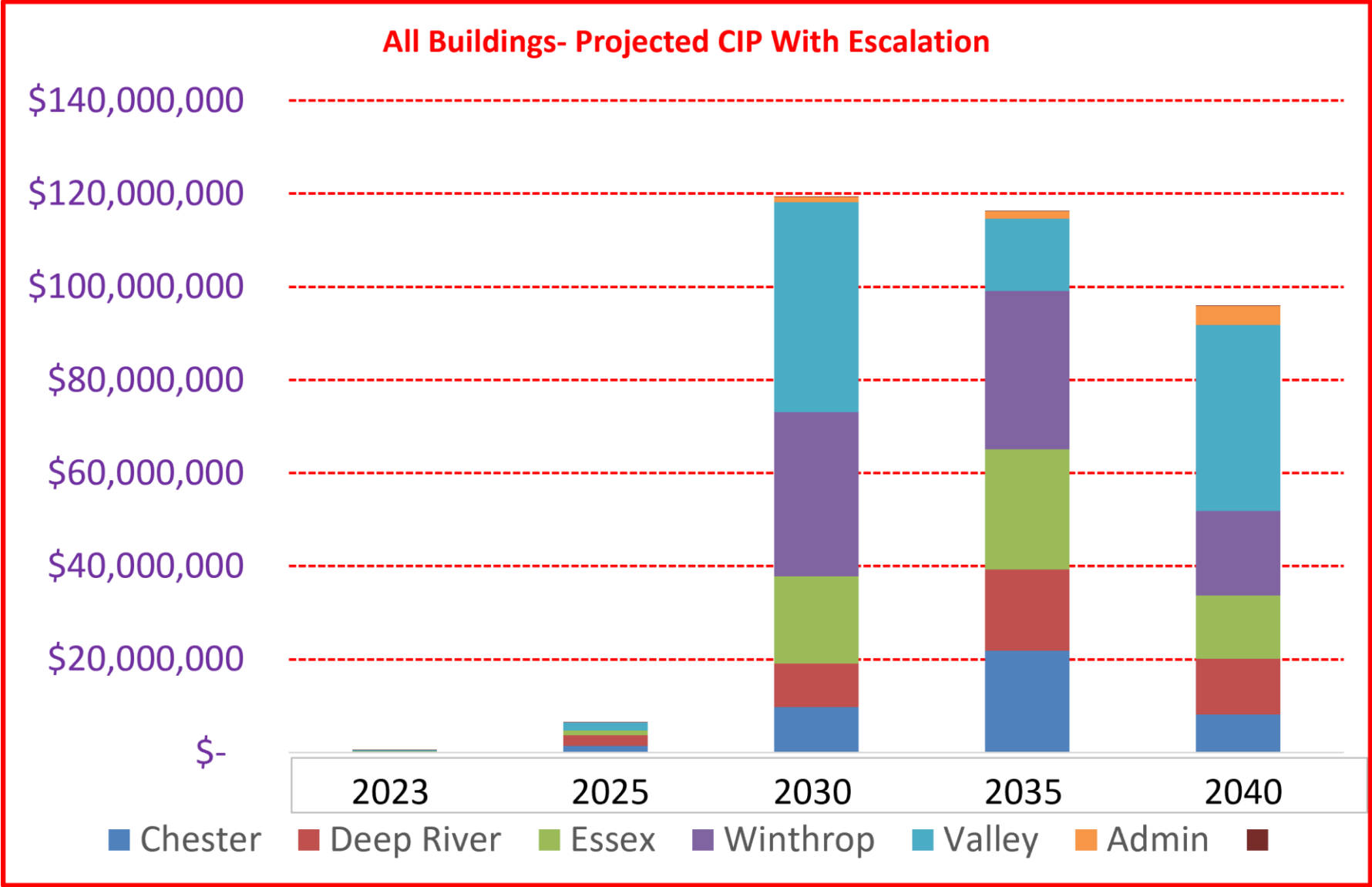
Facilities Assessment – All Facilities Combined CIP



2023: \$463,375
2025: \$5,040,778
2030: \$67,004,836
2035: \$48,217,579
2040: \$28,373,715

Total:
\$149,100,283

Facilities Assessment – All Facilities Combined CIP



2023: \$509,713
2025: \$6,401,788
2030: \$119,268,609
2035: \$116,204,365
2040: \$95,903,157
Total:
\$338,287,631

The Schools of Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4

COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

SCHOOL FACILITIES PHYSICAL –
CONDITIONS ASSESSENT

Joint Board Meeting 6 October 2022

DRA

DRA



Proposal for Full Day Pre-K

Purpose

- In the spring Jen Nucci, Supervisor of Pupil Services and the Collaborative Preschool presented to the BOE
- She provided a high level view of the benefits of a full day Pre-K program
- We committed to revisiting the topic with additional detail this fall.

Current Program

- 18 students from Chester, Deep River and Essex
- Tuition expected for community students
- Inability to accept all applicants due to current structure (approx. 15 turned away OR unable to participate due to .5 day structure)
- 2.5 hour sessions
- Adhering to the CT Early Learning Developmental Standards
- Individual tutoring for repetition and pre-teaching purposes
- Focus on language, literacy, Bridges math.

- Groups: Motor group, Community Music School, social skills groups & phonemic awareness groups
- Playground, science or free play as time allows
- Activities of daily living: Snack, dressing, toileting, manage belongings and self care

Research Supports Full Day Pre-K

- Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards
 - Cognition
 - Social and Emotional Development
 - Physical Development and Health
 - Language and Literacy
 - Creative Arts
 - Mathematics
 - Science
 - Social Studies
- The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAYEYC) position statements further promotes the need for the following topics/experiences to be considered and implemented when supporting Pre-K classrooms
 - Varied, culturally rich experiences
 - Community connections
 - Increased parent involvement
 - Developmentally appropriate practice

Benefits for Region 4 Schools

- Increased opportunity to accept students that are currently on our wait list
- With current closures of early childhood programs in our region, opportunity to provide a quality program to children and families
- Opportunity to provide quality programming for all children if tuition is nonexistent
- Increased preparation for Kindergarten in all domains
- Equity to reduce the achievement gap
- Increased scores on high stakes assessments
- Increased social and emotional readiness for school
- Increased “learning to learn” skills
- Increased understanding of diversity and inclusion
- Acceptance of individual differences
- Transition to kindergarten form (handout)
- K Standards (We follow CT state standards- report card handout)

Surrounding Districts Pre-K (4 y.o.)

Old Saybrook- 5 days a week/ 6 hour sessions- tuition charged

Old Lyme- 5 days a week/ 6 hour sessions- Universal no charge

East Lyme- 4 Days a week/ 3 hour and 5 hour sessions- tuition charged

Westbrook- 5 Days a week/ 6 hour sessions- no charge

Haddam Killingworth- 4 Days a week/2.5 hour sessions- tuition charged

Proposed Class Structure

- Up to 12 students (community and special education)
- 1 certified teacher, 1 paraeducator
- Low Cost Tuition for community peers
- Standards based curriculum
- Transportation - (based on survey)

Timeline

- Implementation in stages
- Current Pre-K class (am and pm) becomes two full day classrooms
 - Allows current related service staff to remain adequate

Three year plan:

- 23-24 one additional class (essentially status quo for enrollment)
- 24-25 additional class (based on interest)
- 25-26 Universal Pre-K

Why full day Pre-K and why now?

- Stronger foundational skills in language, literacy, math
- Improved physical health and attendance
- Increased social and emotional development
- Increased parental involvement
- Relaxed and unhurried school day
- Fewer transitions
- In-depth, culturally diverse explorations
- Varied experiences
- Access to community resources and linkages
- Align to the current landscape of Pre-K programs in our area

Next Steps

- **Fall: Survey all elementary families to determine level of interest**
- **Winter: Recommendation to the BOE to support a scaffolded expansion to the Pre-K program.**
- **Spring: Potential funding for 2023-2024 Pre-K expansion**