Public Comment Q&A from the Cape Elizabeth School Board/Town Council joint meeting, July 26, 2022:

Bathrooms: How many, why so many?
Answer: The project will follow code requirements per 2021 UPC, OSHA, and best practices for providing age appropriate access to facilities, particularly for younger Elementary School students. Separate facilities for faculty and staff use will be provided per District requirements and MDHHS. Separate public restrooms will also be provided as required where appropriate in connection with areas of assembly. In general, a mixed approach of providing Gender Neutral restroom configurations with shaired sinks paired with traditional unisex restrooms will be pursued so that people may have access to facilities that align with their comfort level.

Costs: Because of added square footage, will there be an increase in custodial costs?
Answer:Our custodial staffing is based on Association of Physical Plant Administration (APPA) guidelines and while we do not have all our current positions filled as well as having several people out for extenuating circumstances the new proposed school would not require any additional staffing given all positions are filled. Furthermore, with the right materials such as polished concrete and rubber flooring, the new school would make the job more efficient over the course of a school year.

Benefits of the new school for the custodial department would come in two forms – money and time. 90% of the summer is spent waxing the floors throughout the district, not having to wax the floors should save roughly $18,000/year as well as allow the team to spend more time cleaning all the nooks and crannies that often get overlooked throughout the year.

Flexibility: Is the building flexible enough to sustain the next 50+ years? Are there potential places for additions, if necessary?
Answer: While the basis of design anticipates 1,055 students, the core classrooms planned serve a capacity of 1,127. The building has built-in flexibility to accommodate up to 1,340 students without renovation or displacement of essential Special Service programs or specially equipped classrooms supporting Allied Arts or STEM programs. When considering planning for flexibility in the future, programmatic and operational adjustments will be implemented by the School District as needed to maximize capacity and use outside of any physical changes to the building infrastructure. If needed, additional classrooms could be created by converting some of the larger break-out learning areas to enclosed classroom spaces which would still have access to natural light. This can be done without a major renovation due to the flexible nature of the post and beam structure proposed. This could increase the number above by up to 166 additional students for a total of 1,506 students.
Further measures may be considered to make structural provisions for more extensive additions in the future if the District and Town feel it is warranted.

Technology: Does the building anticipate provisions for pandemic related learning needs? Is it being built to anticipate upgrades in technology, education needs, hybrid learning, etc.?
Answer: Related to the pandemic, classroom sizes have been developed to allow for 6ft desk spacing if needed, and all classrooms and meeting spaces will be equipped with technology to support virtual meetings and remote or hybrid learning / teaching if needed. Structured outdoor learning spaces are also planned around the building. On the broader subject of technology, each school will have a dedicated age-appropriate Technology Classroom / Experiential Learning Maker Space which reflects the growing presence of technology in the classroom and beyond. The IT support spaces within the school will be expanded from what is currently in place to reflect the increased server capacity, equipment storage needs for both staff and students, and staffing support needs that are a reality in school buildings today. These are centrally located not only for ease of access, but so that it may be an educational opportunity in connection with STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) programming when appropriate. With input from the IT Director, flexible pathways to accommodate future technology upgrades that may come to be over the life of the building are planned throughout the building infrastructure.

High School: Are the recommended renovations sufficient to help sustain the high school for the next 10-15 years?
Answer: In regards to high school renovations, the goal is to complete projects that will improve the quality of the building for the rest of its service life, while considering projects that could be useful in a larger renovation or new build down the road. In addition, the high school has benefited from several SRRF grants over the past few years while work has continued on the overall building project.

Enrollment Projections: If population is declining why are we planning for growth?
Answer: Data specific to Cape Elizabeth anticipate moderate population growth and stability over the next decade. 2020 Census data indicate that actual growth outpaced projected figures included in the 2019 Comprehensive Plan by more than double. While the COVID pandemic caused some shifts in enrollment, it should be acknowledged that this was an atypical circumstance. While some of the current decreases in enrollment may be attributable to COVID, it is worth noting that the smaller class sizes now seen in the Middle School grades were expected and reflect birth-rate declines that can be traced back to the last Recession. Conversely, next year's increase in enrollment at the Elementary School reflects an upswing trend in close step with the increases seen in the 2020 Census data. As the Cape Elizabeth community continues to investigate increased housing opportunities, it should be noted that this would be expected to contribute to an increase in enrollment in the future, which cannot be counted at this time.

Planning: Have the new schools been designed for the next pandemic?
Answer: Related to the pandemic, classroom sizes have been developed to allow for 6ft desk spacing if needed, and all classrooms and meeting spaces will be equipped with technology to support virtual meetings and remote or hybrid learning / teaching. Structured outdoor learning spaces are also planned around the building.

PODS/CLASSROOMS: How many classrooms are in each pod? How are the spaces built for flexibility?
Answer: Each grade level pod in the Elementary School has 6 core classrooms. Each grade level pod in the Middle School has 5 core classrooms, 1 World Language Classroom and either

1 or 2 shared Science Lab classrooms depending on the grade level. See above response on Flexibility. Where possible, Special Services classrooms have also been located near or within each grade level, and serve a variety of programs throughout the buildings. It should be noted that these resources serve all grade levels and are not specific to the grade level pods they may be closest to.

CLASSROOM SQUARE FOOTAGE: Please clarify the DOE recommendation for the 800 sqft classroom size and the additional services/storage they recommend within classrooms.
Answer: MDOE recommends 800 sf for regular classrooms for grades 1-12. Stipulations are not explicitly given regarding additional storage specific to classrooms, but storage is generally noted as 'negotiable' without explicit recommendation on area. The MDOE issues these guidelines as recommendations to be considered and altered as needed by the school systems in which they are being implemented.

Comparison to other recent school projects: Where do we differ? [Cost PSF and SFP Student]
Answer: We are continuing to gather research on other school projects and have sent out data we have found for the DOE to confirm.