



## Q&A #5 – SANDY HOOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

On May 10, 2013, the Newtown Board of Education, as members of the Sandy Hook School Task Force, endorsed the decision to remove Sandy Hook Elementary School and build a new school on a modified version of the current site.

We will be issuing a series of Q&A documents to ensure the community is informed throughout the rebuilding process. The following Q&A document provides an update on the Sandy Hook Elementary School building project and the Referendum scheduled on October 5, 2013 to authorize the town government to spend money which has been granted by the State of Connecticut.

QUESTION	ANSWER
When & where is the referendum to approve the appropriation for rebuilding the Sandy Hook Elementary School?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The referendum is scheduled for <b>Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup></b> from <b>6:00am to 8:00pm</b> at the <b>Newtown Middle School</b> – 11 Queen Street.</li> <li>You can obtain an absentee ballot at the Town Clerk’s Office (3 Primrose Street, Newtown) Monday – Friday 8:00am-4:00pm or request by mail by filling out an absentee ballot request <a href="http://www.newtown-ct.gov/Public_Documents/NewtownCT_Clerk/absentee">http://www.newtown-ct.gov/Public_Documents/NewtownCT_Clerk/absentee</a></li> </ul>
Who is eligible to vote in the referendum?	All registered voters in Newtown or anyone who is a U.S. citizen who is assessed at least \$1,000 for the Real Estate or Motor Vehicles on the 2012 Grand List for the Town of Newtown.
What is the referendum question?	<p>Shall the \$49,250,000 special appropriation for architectural and engineering services for the design of a new elementary school in Sandy Hook, demolition of existing school and for the construction of said school and the acquisition of two parcels of land for the purpose of relocating the entrance of said school, said special appropriation to be funded by a grant from the State of Connecticut, be approved “YES/NO”</p> <p>To see the notice in its entirety: <a href="http://www.newtown-ct.gov/Public_Documents/NewtownCT_Calendar/S041FA672-041FA6C5?formid=161">http://www.newtown-ct.gov/Public_Documents/NewtownCT_Calendar/S041FA672-041FA6C5?formid=161</a></p>
Will a ‘yes’ vote on the referendum increase my taxes?	A ‘yes’ vote on the referendum question will <b>not</b> affect your local taxes.
Does the Town have to repay the State for the grant of \$50 million for the Sandy Hook School project?	No, the Town has no obligation to repay the State of Connecticut for the grant of \$50 million to rebuild the new Sandy Hook School.
Why was the decision made to build a new school and not just renovate?	Analysis of the renovate vs. build new by the Advisory Committee showed that costs to renovate this 56 year old building, bring it up to code, eliminate the portables, make it energy efficient, provide necessary safety features, and more, generated a cost almost at the same level of new building construction.
Could a ‘no’ vote on the referendum change the location of the proposed school?	A ‘no’ vote on the referendum question <b>cannot</b> change the location of the proposed new school. The referendum question is on the authorization for the Town to spend money which has been granted by the State.
If the referendum is successful, what are the very next steps in the project?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We would begin abatement of any hazardous materials in October.</li> <li>The school would be demolished sometime in November.</li> <li>The architect/engineering and construction management firms have been selected and they would begin work on the design and construction of the new Sandy Hook Elementary School.</li> </ul>
What happens if the Town votes ‘no’ on the Sandy Hook School referendum question?	A failed referendum would mean that all work related to Sandy Hook School would cease. The referendum question specifically calls for the demolition of the existing building and the construction of a new school. If the Town does not accept that action, then the State will not provide this gift to our community and other alternatives would have to be found for the entire elementary school population of Sandy Hook, some 450 students counting the district’s pre-K program.