

Are there plans to improve the parking situation with this project?

There is awareness that parking is a challenge at UVWS. To begin to address it, conversations with the Ottawaquechee School were initiated in the spring of 2016. UVWS proposed a land purchase or a land swap, however both were rejected. The collaboration with the Hartford School District has continued, while our focus has shifted to further refine building plans and continue fundraising. The UVWS Board continues to place emphasis on parking issues and safer pedestrian traffic and how that may be made possible by widening our access road.

How is energy efficiency being handled within the project?

Energy efficiency is being considered in this project, not only as a goal but as an educational opportunity for students. We are asking our design/build firm, BreadLoaf Corporation, to provide us with cost options / choices as we go forward. There is an awareness that this is a priority for our school community and to that end we will continue to balance energy efficiency within the practicalities of the budget. At this time, efficiency is being considered in the new construction only. Efficiency for existing building will be a consideration for future a Capital Campaign project / Board.

UVWS is on a normal trajectory of evolution as an organization and at a healthy point. The organizational growth process cannot be rushed; facilities are crucial and everything cannot be done at once. This doesn't answer all the questions but we are doing what we can.

How are ongoing costs of operations and maintenance being addressed, is there seed money in the Capital Campaign budget for this line item?

The UVWS Board Treasurer has been assessing the operating costs of the new building. Annual and capital budgets/ expenses are very separate. UVWS does not currently have an Operating and Maintenance reserve given the sensitivity of the budget.

While we build infrastructure, how do we take care of the people our teachers and staff?

When we began talking about the next phase of the campus master plan, a constellation of factors gave rise to the prioritization of a middle school building. Part of that journey included the belief that investing in the upper grades building will steady enrollment which will in turn strengthen the school's operating budget. In short, we are expecting the new building to have a positive impact on our operating budget. Maintaining and increasing enrollment has been, is now, and will continue to be a Board priority.

How is the school's debt being monitored and does it tie into this project?

UVWS currently carries approximately \$500,000 in debt comprised of a blending of capital expenses and other loans / costs over the years. The school's asset to debt ratio is currently healthy and will only strengthen with a capital improvement project.

The school carries a commercial real estate note that is due 2023. This figure is part of the operating budget and is closely monitored. There are no recommendations to relieve debt at this time; our current interest rate is fairly low.