

Carver Journal

Voters soundly reject new Old Colony school building

by Nick Mossman

On Tuesday, voters soundly rejected a proposal to build a new \$288.7 million building for Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School in Rochester.

The total vote was 1,923 for and 3,112 against the project. According to vote totals shared by Carver Town Clerk Cara Dahill, Carver had one of the narrowest vote totals. There were 246 "Yes" votes and 284 "No" votes in Carver.

Mattapoisett was the only town that favored building the new school. It voted 278 in favor to 202 against. An overwhelming number of "No" votes from the other Old Colony district towns of Acushnet, Lakeville and Rochester squashed the project's hopes of passing the ballot.

Now, the proposal is halted until further action.

Old Colony Superintendent Aaron Polansky said in a meeting with Carver residents earlier this month that should the vote not pass, the project's Massachusetts School Building Authority grant may also be in jeopardy. Now, the building project would require MSBA approval to schedule another vote, or it may have to wait up to five to 10 years to re-enter the program.

The decision was a firm rejection of the policy which could have raised taxes on the median household by hundreds of dollars should Carver adopt a debt exclusion to fund it. The project was expected to cost Carver a total of \$26.2 million.

Now, the school may have to look toward a different means of dealing with a building that project organizers claimed had "reached the end of its useful life."

The school could move forward with repairs, which Polansky said could conservatively cost \$134.3 million, all of which would fall on the towns, rather than an MSBA grant.



A rendering of the proposed Old Colony school. Source: Old Colony Building Project

It is unclear what the school will choose to do. The school posted a message to Facebook shortly after the results were announced.

"In the coming months, we will reflect on the feedback and consider our next steps," the post reads. "We hope you will remain part of the conversation as we work toward solutions that support our students and a vision moving forward."

Ahead of the vote, critics of the project argued that Old Colony hadn't been transparent in its anticipated costs. Building project organizers made an onslaught of Facebook posts calling the critiques "misleading," in the days leading up to the election.

Should the vote have passed, the school would have had the support of a \$129 million grant from the MSBA. Still, the project left millions of dollars to pay by the school district's member towns.

Carver could have funded its share through a debt exclusion, which would have required voter approval and temporarily increase taxes so the town could borrow funds until a 30-year bond is paid off. According to a tax estimate calculator on the Old Colony project's site, the median Carver property valued at \$517,364 would see a tax increase of about \$321 per year with this method.

Should the school move ahead with repairs, using a debt exclusion it would cost an estimated \$271 per year in taxes to the median Carver household.

Contact Nick Mossman at nick@carverjournal.com

Things to do

Elementary game night: Play some math and literacy games with teachers and staff at Carver Elementary School at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 20.

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Things to do continued



Powderpuff tournament:

Support the Carver High School powderpuff game on Wednesday, Nov. 26 at 5 p.m. in the CMHS Football Stadium. Spectating costs \$5 or a canned good donation for Shane Gives Thanks

Catch some holiday cheer:

Edaville is still putting up holiday lights this year, launching its inaugural "Deck the Halls" weekend. On Saturday, Nov. 29, all Carver residents will get free admission to the festival with a valid ID.



Pick up some painting skills:

On Wednesday, Nov. 19 from 6 to 8 p.m., Brewery 44 in North Carver is hosting a holiday paint night. The paint night costs \$30 via Venmo to @Monica-Gillet to reserve a seat. All ages are welcome and no artistic expertise is required.



Calling all writers!

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Our Mission

The Carver Journal strives to publish accurate information about news and events happening around our town. Our goal is to increase residents' knowledge about what's going on in Carver, promoting public engagement and awareness.

Carver set to play Thanksgiving football game

by Kyle Carey



The Carver Crusaders logo. From the Carver Public Schools website.

The Carver Crusaders will host the Middleboro Sachems on Thanksgiving Thursday, Nov. 27 at 10:00 a.m. The Crusaders, will see Middleboro, for a hotly contested game. The matchup could be an upset win for the Crusaders against the Sachems.

Babe Rooney, a lifelong member of the Carver resident and the hallway monitor at CMHS, spoke on how important it is to support the football games. Rooney explained how essential it is for kids to be playing and see their friends, parents, grandparents in the stands cheering them on.

A player on the football team, Michael Brennan, a senior who's played center and middle linebacker, said it's important for the town to support the team's football games.

"I believe that it promotes the sport to younger kids," Brennan said. "It shows the youth team if they stick to the sport they strive to play at the high school level".

The game will be hosted at Carver Middle High School. Tickets are \$3 for students or seniors, 5th grade and under are free, and \$5 for adults. All are welcome to support the Crusaders.

Contact the Carver Journal at stories@carverjournal.com

Working smoke alarms save lives

The Carver Fire Department is urging residents to test their smoke alarms. According to assistant deputy chief Jesse Boyle, smoke alarms are meant to be replaced every 10 years or sooner depending on the alarm manufacturer's recommendations. Residents should test their alarms monthly and change replaceable alarm batteries twice per year.



The Carver Fire Department logo. Source: Facebook

Smoke alarms are required on each level of Carver homes and carbon monoxide alarms should be installed within 10 feet of each bedroom, according to the department. For questions, residents are encouraged to contact the fire department at 508-866-3440.



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