

Greenwich-Stow Creek Partnership Schools

Morris Goodwin School
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Exciting Partnership News!

The Greenwich Stow Creek Partnership Schools have been working towards creating a Targeted Regional School District between Greenwich and Stow Creek. The Acting Commissioner of Education has approved our request and has directed us to hold a special election so the community can vote on this change.

1. What is a Targeted Regional School District?

- A Targeted Regional School District will create a “new” school district in which Greenwich and Stow Creek would function as one district in all aspects. **Think Greenwich Stow Creek Regional School instead of Partnership Schools. This Regional School District would only include Greenwich and Stow Creek.**

2. What will change?

- All the changes will be “behind the scenes”. **Both the Morris Goodwin School and the Stow Creek School will continue to function as they are now.** We will transition to one combined Board of Education, one shared budget, one teacher’s union, one contract and the same staff you know and trust.

3. Why the change?

- Greenwich and Stow Creek have been sharing resources, teachers and students since 2009. Over the years, budgeting has been increasingly difficult with both districts, at times, coming very close to deficit spending. Should one of the districts fall into deficit, the NJ Department of Education would then have control over what happens to the school. **The Targeted Regional School District would allow us to continue serving students in our community and make our district financially stronger in the process.**

4. When will this take place?

- **Both Greenwich and Stow Creek residents will vote on this during a special election on September 17, 2024.** After passing in **both** Townships, the Partnership Schools would become a Regional School for the 2025-26 school year. Again, it must pass in **both** Townships.

5. How much is this going to cost me?

- According to the feasibility study conducted, **there will be minimal impact to your taxes.** Stow Creek residents may see a slight tax increase, approximately \$142 increase on the average \$169,631 home. Greenwich residents may see a slight decrease in taxes. These projections may change slightly with State Aid Figures.

OVER

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6. What happens if the vote doesn't pass in both Townships?
- **We are confident that passing this resolution is in the best interest of our schools and are trusting the residents will agree.** If for some reason the resolution doesn't pass in **both** Townships, we will continue functioning as the Partnership for as long as possible. If that happens, we run a higher risk of a spending deficit and losing control of our schools. Losing control of our schools means the NJ Department of Education would determine how our budget funds should be spent, if our schools should stay open, what schools our children would attend, etc.
7. What happens next?
- Multiple community **meetings will be held in both Greenwich and Stow Creek** over the next few months. If you have specific questions, you can send them to brandon.cobb@stowcreekschool.com. We will attempt to answer your questions directly and/or add them to one of our meetings.

Reminder, this is a formal election, sample ballots will be mailed this summer. You will need to report to your respective polling place, Morris Goodwin School or Stow Creek School in order to vote on September 17th. We need your **YES** vote!

Meeting Dates:

July 17th @ Morris Goodwin School in Greenwich 7:00pm
July 18th @ Stow Creek School in Stow Creek 7:00pm
August 6th @ Stow Creek School in Stow Creek 7:00pm
September 10th @ Morris Goodwin School in Greenwich 7:00pm

Feel free to attend any of the above meetings that fit into your schedule. You can attend any of the listed meetings regardless of the Township in which you reside.

Brandon Cobb

Superintendent