



## Town of Brewster

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Office of the:  
Select Board  
and the  
Town Administrator

### **Brewster Select Board Votes to Recommend Nauset Regional High School Renovation Project**

The Brewster Select Board voted 4-1 in support of the Nauset Regional High School renovation project at their meeting February 8, 2021.

The Select Board vote recommending approval of the project culminated discussion of the project at three recent Select Board meetings in addition to numerous discussions over the past several years. The Select Board weighed presentations and comments by Nauset Regional School Superintendent Tom Conrad, Nauset Regional School Committee Chair Christopher Easley, School Building Committee Chair Greg Levasseur, Brewster Finance Committee Chair Pete Dahl and Finance Committee members, and numerous members of the public.

Select Board members voting in support of the project discussed the harmful financial impact of rejecting this project. School construction costs increase about 6% per year so if this project is voted down, a future project will cost taxpayers much more. Members also noted that if this project is rejected \$36 million in state funding would be lost. Chair Mary Chaffee stated this \$36 million will defray the cost for Brewster taxpayers. Board member Ned Chatelain pointed out that interest rates are at historic lows now and it is an excellent time to borrow. Member Dave Whitney called the project fiscally responsible. Vice Chair Ben deRuyter stated he did not agree with the conclusions reached by the Brewster Finance Committee but felt they conducted their analysis in good faith.

Those in support also indicated that this vote should not be a referendum on school choice policy as it is factored into this project. Members in support indicated that school choice policy is determined by the Nauset Regional School Committee and discussion about how it is applied should occur separately from the school construction vote. The need to provide high quality education in a safe environment was identified as an important factor in drawing families to Brewster.

The member opposed to the project voiced concern with building a school large enough to accommodate Nauset district students and more than 200 School Choice students who attend Nauset High School but live outside of the district, and therefore would not contribute toward the renovation. The member also felt the proposal is unfair to Brewster taxpayers who will be asked to pay 50% of the project while only sending 33% of the student body to the school.