



# VERNON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Enrollment and Facilities Assessment

### Ad Hoc Committee Presentation

January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012





# Introduction

- **Background:** The Enrollment and Facilities Ad Hoc committee was established to collect and present data related to population growth, student enrollment, and school district facilities to the Board of Education and Vernon Township community at large.
- **Committee Members:**
  - Board of Education: John McGowan (Chairman), Doug Castellana, Brad Sparta, David Zweier
  - Community: Tom McClachrie, Fred Podorf, Allison Callow, Cathy Carney, William Higgins





# A Look in the Rear View Mirror

- **1972 – 1973**

- **Three Schools: Walnut Ridge, Lounsberry Hollow and Rolling Hills**
- **Enrollment: 1,924 Students housed in 160,810 square feet**

- **1974 – 1975**

- **Four Schools: Walnut Ridge, Lounsberry Hollow, Rolling Hills and Vernon Township High School**
- **Enrollment: 2,676 students housed in 311,456 square feet**

- **1982 – 1983**

- **Five Schools: Walnut Ridge, Lounsberry Hollow, Rolling Hills, Vernon Township High School and Glen Meadow**
- **Enrollment: 4,152 Students housed in 406,008 square feet**

- **1987 – 1988**

- **Six Schools Walnut Ridge, Lounsberry Hollow, Rolling Hills, Vernon Township High School, Glen Meadow and Cedar Mountain**
- **Enrollment: 4,379 students in 467,027 square feet**





# Recent Enrollment History

- **2001 – 2002**

- Six schools: Walnut Ridge, Lounsberry Hollow, Rolling Hills, Vernon Township High School, Glen Meadow and Cedar Mountain
- Enrollment: 5505 students (peak enrollment) housed in 530,759 square feet

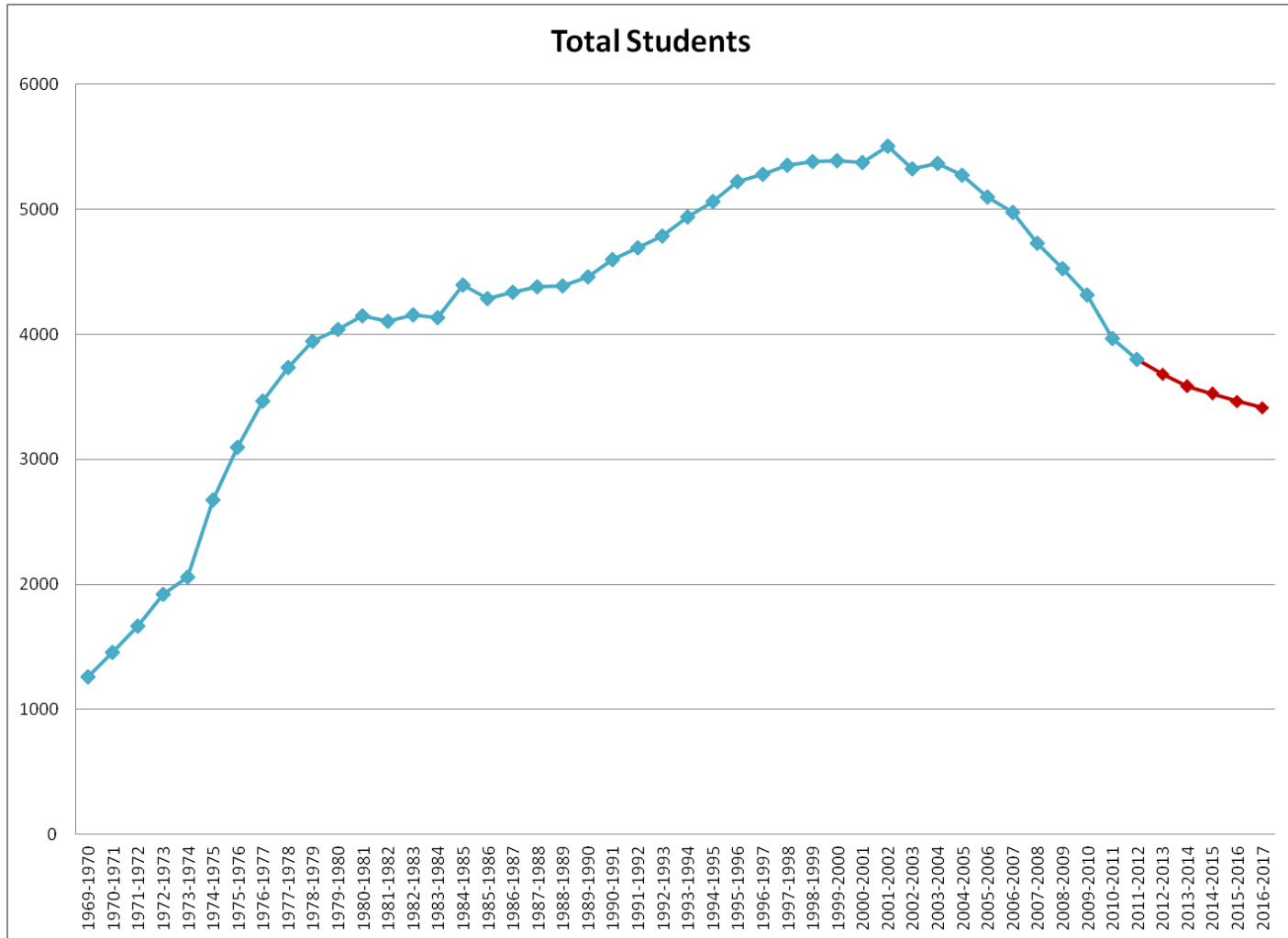
- **2011 – 2012**

- Six schools: Walnut Ridge, Lounsberry Hollow, Rolling Hills, Vernon Township High School, Glen Meadow and Cedar Mountain
- Enrollment: 3,793 students in 530,759 square feet





# Enrollment Summary and Projection



Assumes static kindergarten enrollment of 240



# Facilities Overview

<p>Walnut Ridge 49,683 sq ft Op. Expenses: \$650,235</p>	<p>Rolling Hills 46,814 sq ft Op. Expenses: \$611,336</p>	<p>Cedar Mountain 49,899 sq ft Op. Expenses: \$754,245</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1956: Original Bldg (39,023 sq ft)</li> <li>• 1958: Main Office / Library (5,142 sq ft)</li> <li>• 1992: 6 Classrooms (5,518 sq ft)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1972: Original Bldg (46,814 sq ft)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1987: Original Bldg (46,814 sq ft)</li> </ul>





# Facilities Overview

<p>Lounsberry Hollow 83,513 sq ft Op. Expenses: \$964,944</p>	<p>Glen Meadow 85,452 sq ft Op. Expenses: \$1,106,810</p>	<p>Vernon High School 215,396 sq ft</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1968: Original Bldg (69,831 sq ft)</li> <li>• 1982: 8 Classrooms (9,100 sq ft)</li> <li>• 1992: 6 Classrooms (4,582 sq ft)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1982: Original Bldg (85,452 sq ft)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1973: Original Bldg (150,646 sq ft)</li> <li>• 1985: 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Math (11,120 sq ft)</li> <li>• 1992: Trainer's Room (510 sq ft)</li> <li>• 1993: Cafeteria Ext. (1,875 sq ft)</li> <li>• 1997: Gym addition / Classrooms (51,245)</li> </ul>

**Total Facilities Square Feet: 530,757**





# School Room Capacity

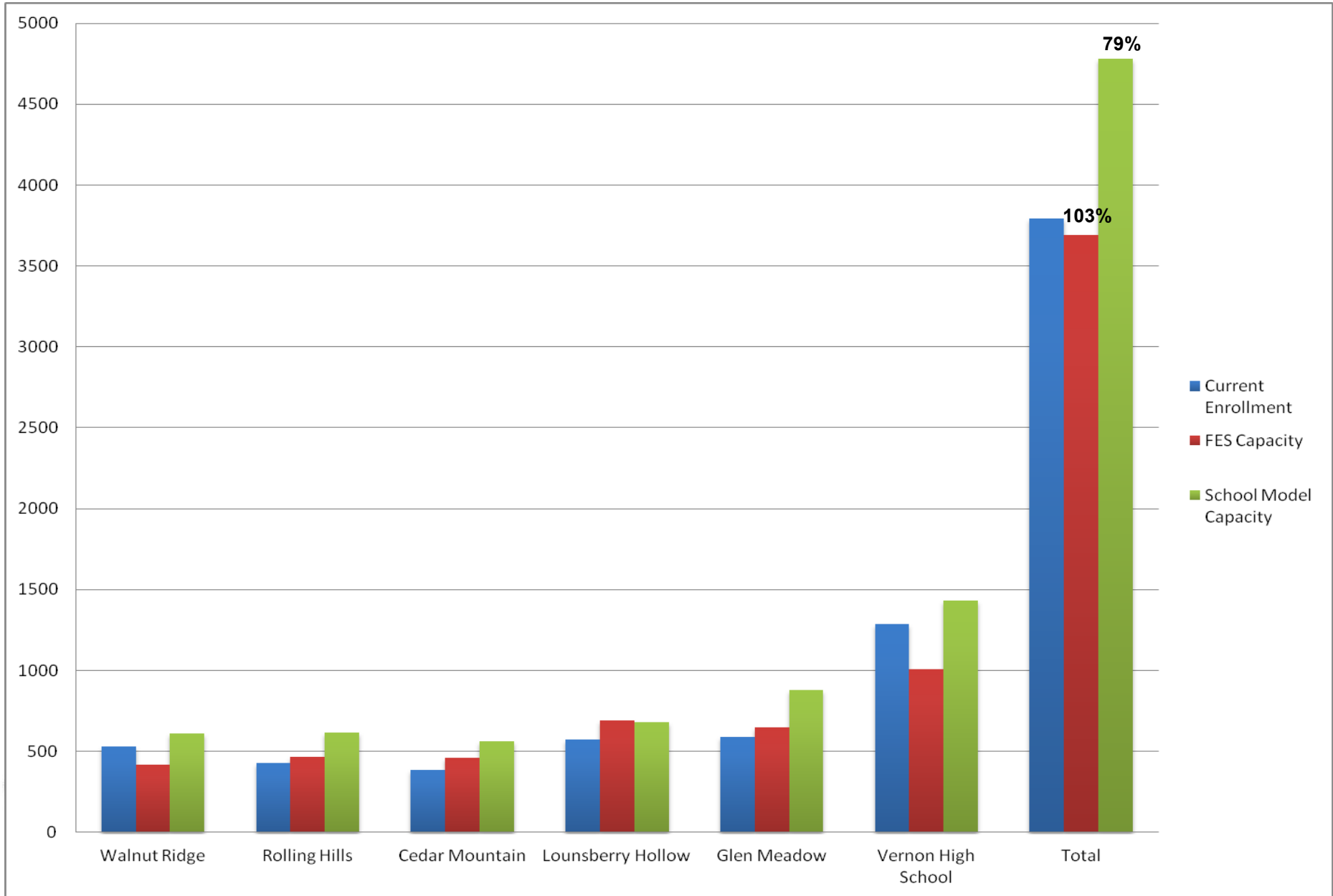
- **Two measures for assessing classroom capacity within a school:**
  1. NJ State DOE Facilities Efficiency Standard: Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act (S-200) enacted in 1998 sets standards for the square foot allowance per pupil for new construction is as follows:
    - Preschool-grade 5    125 sq. ft.
    - Grades 6-8            134 sq. ft.
    - Grades 9-12          151 sq. ft.
  2. Existing Room Inventory – School Model Report: 21.6 students per classroom







# Current School Room Capacity / Utilization







# Direction of the Re-Growth of Vernon Township

A review of the growth patterns of the past and look at our current future growth potential





# Vernon Township's Past

- A Rural Community of About 5,000 Residents
- Commerce Based on Agriculture and Farming
- Limited Local Business and Residential Services
- Permissive Zoning and Building Regulations
- Limited Local and Municipal Services
- Limited Ingress and Egress





# Why We Came North

- Extensive land available for development
- Low cost government sponsored financing
- Prices for homes for much less than “down below”
- A young community; 50% under 18 years of age
- Low property taxes
- Good schools
- Reasonable commute (traffic / gasoline prices)
- Extensive recreational facilities and natural beauty of the township





# Today's Contributing Factors

- Congestion on major commuting routes
- Gasoline prices
- Home prices and tax rates
- Ability to develop additional residential housing
- Highlands Act and other environmental policies
- Emphasis on eco-tourism and multi-family, seasonal housing units.





# Expectations Going Forward

- Vernon Township is a maturing community with a maturing population
- Emphasis on seasonal / recreational and multi-unit development
- Limited opportunities for single-family construction
- Young families are starting to return as prices come down and older generation relocates
- Telecommuting quickly gaining traction
- Focus on continuous improvement to Vernon Schools to attract young couples and families





# Questions / Discussion

