Stow Elementary School Building Committee

Presentation to MSBA

March 12, 2008

Background of Stow

- Who We Are
- Our School Buildings
- Challenges
- Previous work on solving the elementary school problems

Who We Are

- District History
  - Towns of Stow, Bolton, Lancaster
  - Regional High School created 1962
  - Three Town K-12 regionalized 1994
  - 8-person School Committee
- Regional Agreement
  - Each town will house its own K-8
  - Each town owns its buildings
  - Each town finances its own capital needs
  - The District pays for maintenance/operations
  - 2 of 3 towns must approve annual budget

Stow's Schools

- Hale Middle School (Grades 6-8) 64K SF
  - Built 1964
  - Renovated 1996
- Center School (Grades 3-5) 36K SF
  - Built 1954
  - Additions 1957, 1964
- Pompositticut School (Grades K-2) 36K SF
  - Built as Open Classroom 1971
  - Amphitheaters converted 2004

Considerations

- Building Condition
- Building Capacity
- Health & Safety Deficiencies
- Educational Program

Challenges: Pompo

- Building Condition out dated
  - Heating system beyond useful life
  - Open Classroom design
- Building Capacity
  - Double modular classrooms since 2004
  - Removed amphitheaters (775 sf)
  - Café-gymatorium
  - Pre-K students have to go to Bolton/Lancaster
  - 1/3 less than MSBA prototype (short 25K sf)

Challenges: Pompo

- Educational Programs suffering
  - Open Classroom design: no acoustical separation
  - SPED and tutorial classes held in janitor's closet
- Lack of security and fire safety
  - No lockdown options
  - No sprinklers
  - Not ADA compliant

Building Condition Outdated

Systems beyond useful life

Power supply only on posts

CAPACITY EXCEEDED

Reading Instruction Room

NOTE THAT TWO TEACHERS SHARE SPACE, DIVIDED BY EASELS

Teacher Confidential Telephone Call Area

Gym-Cafeteria space

Shared Gym-Cafeteria creates storage issues

NO LOCKDOWN OPTIONS

LITTLE VENTILATION
LOTS OF NOISE

Challenges: Center School

- Building Condition
  - Boilers 1958 and 1985 both in use
  - Well under building
  - No Sprinkler system
  - No ability to “lock down” school if needed
- Building Capacity
  - 18K sf under MSBA prototype size
  - Loss of support and allied arts space to create sufficient classrooms

Challenges: Center School

- Educational Programs suffering
  - SPED space in closets (55sf; 220sf; 285sf)
  - Science classroom lost
  - Music, art and computer lab share 1,000sf
  - Library only 900sf, approximately half the size of DOE recommended

CENTER SCHOOL LIBRARY: 900 SF VS 3000 SF

Book Closet/Conference Room

THIS FORMER SHOWER IS NOW THE TEACHERS' ONE STORAGE SPACE

AV & Copy Equipment stored in hallways

Additional Challenges: District

- Pre-K mandated classrooms
  - Stow's children housed in Bolton & Lancaster
- District Agreement limits moving students across town
  - Bolton needs Emerson (District offices)
  - Lancaster: already planning for building expansion

Stow
Projected Enrollment

- ELEMENTARY (Prek-5)*

  2007: 599

  2010: 620

  2016: 630

*Pre-K currently in Bolton/Lancaster

Based on NESDEC projections November 2006

Stow's History of Addressing School Issues

- 1995 campus proposal to address long term middle & elementary space needs:
  $12.4MM voted down; Hale renovation approved
- SBC 2001-2005
  - Feasibility Study; Demographic studies
  - Health & Safety renovations; land search
  - 2003 SBA Moratorium went into effect
  - 2005 proposal: new site, new school $40MM. Voted down.

Stow's History of Addressing School Issues

- School Building Task Force
  - 14 months February 2006-May 2007
  - Series of community conversations
  - Seven options initially
  - Previous history of votes
  - Nearly unanimous vote at TM May 2007
  - Over 75% of vote at ballot May 2007
  - $2.2 million for conceptual design approved

ADDRESSING REGIONALIZATION

- WITHIN CURRENT DISTRICT
  - Lack of available space: would still require construction
- MAYNARD
  - Conversation began March 2007
  - Needs to be K-12
- OTHER ABUTTING TOWNS

Where We Are

- We've learned and followed the MSBA regulations
- We have the support and momentum of our community
- We got a vote to move forward
- We're ready to work with MSBA to move forward without jeopardizing future funding
- How do we do that?