

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Building Condition Outdated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?