

Classroom Addition for New Elementary School

Fast Facts

- **Important Date**

- Special Town Meeting: January 30, 2017

- **What is Article 2 at Special Town Meeting?**

Article 2 seeks \$1.5M in funding for 4 additional classrooms and related site work for the new elementary school, for which construction preparation is currently underway at 129 Hayden Rowe Street.

- **Why is an addition being requested the new elementary school?**

As part of their annual service to the school district, the New England School Development Council (NESDEC), in November 2016, provided updated student enrollment projections for Hopkinton, showing a significant increase in 10-year projected enrollment in Hopkinton than the forecast available when the school was initially sized through a highly regulated process with the state.

The latest NESDEC projections increase the projected student enrollment for Kindergarten and First Grade (K-1) by about 80 students on average for the 10-year period beginning with the 2018-2019 school year when the new elementary school opens. An additional 80 students would increase class sizes to 21-23 students per class, well above the target class size for these grades of 18-20.

The addition of 4 classrooms would enable the district to achieve its target of 18-20 students per class for K-1 and provide the most effective educational experience in alignment with the educational plan approved by Hopkinton and by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA).

- **Why was there a large change in the enrollment projections?**

NESDEC attributes the increase to the active real estate market in Hopkinton, including much of the new construction being permitted as well as turnover in existing houses and condominiums. With its location near major highways and high performing school district, Hopkinton continues to be a popular destination for families with school age children.

- **Why is now the right time to fund the additional classrooms?**

A window of opportunity is available now to integrate the addition while keeping the main project on schedule; the original project is currently at the stage of pouring concrete for the foundation. Incorporating the addition at this point in the construction is possible with minimal amount of change orders or schedule risk to the original project. Completing the proposed addition in future years after completion of the original project would be significantly more expensive (see costs section below).

- **What is the cost of the proposed addition?**

The total cost of the 4 classroom addition and associated site work is \$3.5M. \$2M of project savings resulting from a very competitive bid process for concrete and steel and prior value-engineering decisions by the ESBC, reduce the incremental funding request to \$1.5M for the 4 additional classrooms and associated site work.

It is the goal of each of the Town departments to ensure that this facility provide the best educational experience for our youngest learners in the most cost effective manner possible. While this new data received in November presents a challenge, we are extremely fortunate that it came up when it did as

the current state of the project and Special Town Meeting timing allow us to solve this problem now and in the most economically efficient manner.

- **Do state and local committees agree that this is the right approach?**

As a financial and planning partner with Hopkinton for the existing school construction project, the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) has been consulted and agrees with the change in enrollment forecast and supports the proposed 4-classroom addition.

The following town boards and committees have reviewed and voted to recommend this article:

- Hopkinton Board of Selectmen
- Hopkinton Capital Improvements Committee
- Hopkinton Appropriation Committee
- Hopkinton School Committee
- Hopkinton Elementary School Building Committee

- **What is the design impact to the school?**

As illustrated below, the proposed addition (in red) would accommodate a space already reserved for additional future classrooms. Common spaces in the building are already sized for the larger number of students.

