

September 20, 2017

Dear Shrewsbury Families & Community Members,

As you may know, our community is partnering with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) on a building project that will both address the condition of the 95-year-old Beal Early Childhood Center building AND provide sufficient space for all of our elementary schools to meet the future needs of all Kindergarten through Grade 4 students. To do this, we have to plan with long-term enrollment projections in mind. This is a multi-year process: The current timeline, should this project go forward, is that a renovated/expanded or new Beal would most likely open in the fall of 2022.

The MSBA has already determined that this project (whether a renovation/addition or a new school) must be either of two different types of grade configurations:

- A Kindergarten and Grade 1 school designed for 750 students

OR

- A Kindergarten through Grade 4 school designed for 790 students

In order for the architect to move forward with the feasibility study and initial design of the project, the School Committee will vote on October 25 as to which grade configuration our school district will adopt. Between now and then it's important that we hear from you, our parents and community members. The School Committee and the School Department administration invite you to respond to a survey and to attend one of two public hearings being held at the School Committee meetings on September 27 and October 11 (meetings begin at 7:00pm in the Selectmen's Room at Town Hall, 100 Maple Avenue). **Please click [here](#) to take the survey, or paste <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BealConfigurationParentsCommunity> into your web browser.**

The survey items themselves will provide some context for your feedback, but in order to learn more about this project I encourage you to look at [this brief informational sheet](#) or [this slide presentation](#) recently made to the School Committee. **Your feedback is important because the grade configuration chosen for the Beal project will have an impact on Shrewsbury families from ALL elementary school neighborhoods, as it will ultimately affect where students in town attend school for their Kindergarten through Grade 4 education.** This decision has many implications, including:

- where all, or almost all, Shrewsbury students will attend school for Grades K and 1
- changes that could occur to grade configurations in *all existing* elementary schools
- the span of curriculum focus across a single school depending on the number of grades housed there
- how many transitions between different schools students may experience as they move up through the grades
- potential transportation and school schedule modifications

Other considerations: Please note that both grade configurations assume that if and when the project is completed several years from now (estimated to be the fall of 2022):

1) there will then be access to full day kindergarten for all families, and

2) there will be some level of “redistricting” of which neighborhoods are assigned to each school, in order to balance student enrollment across the five schools.

Thank you in advance for providing feedback regarding this important decision that the School Committee will make on October 25.

Respectfully,

Joe Sawyer
Superintendent of Schools

Full survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BealConfigurationParentsCommunity>