



Shrewsbury Public Schools

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Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations

24 April 2023

To: School Committee

Subj: RECOMMENDATION TO VOTE SUPPORT FOR WARRANT ARTICLE 31: 2023 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Background

In May 2021 a Statement of Interest was submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority [MSBA] Accelerated Repair Program to replace the windows at Oak Middle School. At the time of application, the windows were 41 years old in and need of replacement. The MSBA selected this project to move forward in their project and grant funding pipeline.

At the May 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 18 was approved to fund the project knowing that 52.26% of eligible project costs would be funded by the MSBA. At that time the total project cost was estimated to be \$950,000.

Since that time, an owner's project manager and architect were assigned to the project by the MSBA, per the protocol for the Accelerated Repair Program. Subsequent cost estimates have been completed and the total project cost is estimated to be \$3,899,876, including construction, design, and construction management fees. The cost escalation is due to inflation in the construction industry. In fact, it is because of this inflationary factor that the MSBA did not accept applications for the 2023 cycle for the Accelerated Repair Program, as they need to allocate all of their funding to the so-called Core Program for new schools and additions/renovations. Shrewsbury was fortunate to get this project approved in 2022 as 52.26% will be funded, and many other applicants did not get accepted into this program before it was placed on hiatus by the MSBA.

Action Recommended

A new warrant article, Article 31, is on the 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant to allocate the additional funding needed to complete this project.

It is recommended that the School Committee vote to support Article 31 now as a signal to the town meeting representatives and community as a whole that you support this project.

This warrant article was developed between the Town Manager's Office and Department of Public Works, Public Buildings Division, as they have responsibility for maintaining school buildings and managing all school construction related projects.

If this article is approved, we expect the project would be completed during the Summer of 2024.

Recommended Vote

We recommend the following vote:

I move that the School Committee vote to support Article 31 on the 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant to allocate the funding necessary to complete the Oak Middle School window replacement project.