



Shrewsbury Public Schools

Joseph M. Sawyer, Ed.D.
Superintendent

December 15, 2023

To: School Committee
From: Joe Sawyer
Re: Capital Planning Update

I will be providing an update on our capital planning for school building facilities at your December 20 meeting. Please click [here](#) to review the first update that was provided in September.

Shrewsbury High School Statement of Interest Status

The first topic is the status of the statement of interest that our town filed with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for a potential expansion of Shrewsbury High School (SHS). The MSBA conducted a “senior study” site visit to SHS in the fall, where agency officials and architects they had hired to evaluate our application toured the building and met with school district and town officials to discuss the information we submitted in the [SHS statement of interest](#).

Unfortunately, this past week we received news that the MSBA did not invite Shrewsbury into the eligibility phase of their process for this project. The MSBA received 63 statements of interest from across the Commonwealth, and ultimately they invited 19 projects into the eligibility pipeline. Both in the courtesy call I received and in a subsequent email, the MSBA indicated that they refresh the process every year and encourage communities to resubmit projects for potential partnership. Several of the projects the MSBA moved forward this year had submitted applications in previous years and had resubmitted multiple times. It is my recommendation that our community submit a new statement of interest for a potential expansion of SHS to relieve chronic overcrowding for this next cycle.

Preschool-Grade 4 Capital Planning Study Committee Update

At the directive of the School Committee and as part of our strategic planning work, the Preschool-Grade 4 Capital Planning Study Committee was formed this past September (see enclosed roster). The purpose of the study committee is twofold:

- 1) Create a transparent process to discuss the future direction for early childhood and elementary capital investment.
- 2) Review the LPA|A PreK-4 Space Study and determine the pros and cons of the various preschool and elementary configurations suggested in the study and make recommendations to the School Committee and Select Board for a preferred pathway forward.

The study committee has met three times so far, rotating meetings among elementary schools where optional tours are provided by that school's principal prior to the meeting:

September 18, 2023 at Coolidge School

- Topic: Reviewed and discussed the 2023 Capital Inventory and Improvement Study from LPA|A with architect Sean Brennan

October 30, 2023 at Paton School

- Topic: Reviewed and discussed the long-term enrollment projections from multiple sources

December 4, 2023 at Spring Street School

- Topic: Reviewed information regarding the concepts of neighborhood schools and consolidation of schools in the context of possible future options outlined in the 2023 Capital Inventory and Improvement Study

Future meetings are scheduled for January 8 and February 12. Topics to be discussed include future preschool enrollment and programming options and determining what pathway forward for future capital investments in Preschool - Grade 4 facilities, with the goal of presenting a recommendation to the School Committee in March of 2024. Additional detailed information from the work of the study committee can be found on our website [here](#).

I look forward to discussing these topics with you at your December 20 meeting.