

Acton-Boxborough Regional School District Superintendent's Office

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Superintendent of Schools

PHASE II OF THE CAPITAL STUDY: "EDUCATIONAL VISIONING & MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT"

The firm of Dore & Wittier is currently working with the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District (the District) to develop a Master Facilities Plan. Their charge in this study is to provide the District with a series of options based on information garnered during the physical assessments of each building (Phase 1 of the study), combined with feedback provided by the District and community during Phase 2 of the Study regarding the desired educational approach.

Based upon their knowledge of our district and the current state of our capital needs, Dore & Whittier's team will develop a range of options over the upcoming summer that include:

- Maintaining the status quo in terms of the continued operation of our current school buildings and attending only to the list of items identified in our Capital Improvement Plan;
- Possible additions and/or renovations to each school;
- Smaller focused interventions to improve educational space and infrastructure needs at individual schools,
- Potential new construction to replace buildings that are deemed obsolete and cost prohibitive to rehabilitate to serve the long-term needs of the District.

The development of options will also include reviewing scenarios of school consolidation with additions and/or renovations to existing facilities or new construction, grade realignment(s) and potential school closures and repurposing. Options for consolidating one or more schools will be developed and reviewed. Each option will be vetted with pros/cons including, but not limited to:

- Desired educational approach in the district and our vision for the future;
- The viability of possible solutions (i.e. the ability of buildings and sites to accommodate option(s));
- Capital costs and affordability for the community (Will our communities financially support certain options and will MSBA participate in the cost?);
- The impacts and disruptions to education delivery in the district to implement an option (i.e. how exactly can or will renovations at occupied buildings occur?);
- How current district policies, including but not limited to, 'school choice,' impact considerations.

The District has submitted Statements of Interest to partner with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to further analyze options available to the District. MSBA and the District will have to agree on a 'solution' that could be presented to the community for support.

The goal of the study is to present the District with a range of options to consider, with an outline of the benefits and costs of each. Dore & Wittier does not hold preconceived notions as to what the right 'solution' will be in terms of tackling the capital needs of the District, and this study will <u>not</u> conclude with one option that is deemed 'the solution.'