

# Hopkinton Public Schools

## Capital Article # 27

### [Elmwood School Solution]

#### *Fast Facts*

- **What is Article 27 at Annual Town Meeting?**

This Article would fund a feasibility study for a solution to the replacement/renovation of the Elmwood School.

- **Why is Elmwood School Solution being requested?**

The conditions of the Elmwood School continue to deteriorate, and capacity is becoming a constraint. This will be the fourth SOI submitted to seek a replacement, renovation or addition in response to deteriorating conditions at the school. Statements of Interest were submitted to the MSBA in 2008, 2012 and 2013. Each time, Elmwood was listed as second to Center School in priority.

To improve the learning environment at Elmwood School, which houses Hopkinton's 2nd and 3rd grades, we seek to:

- Replace the inefficient, leaky single pane windows.
- Update HVAC, electrical and data wiring systems.
- Update the interior of the building, including new cabinetry, whiteboards & bulletin boards to improve educational utility and extend the life of the building.
- Update restrooms, replacing aging plumbing and extending the life of the building.
- Expand the Main Office suite to enhance functionality, and improve visibility from the Main Office to the outside of the building.
- Expand and improve the functionality of the Special Education instructional spaces, the educational spaces for reading and ELE instructors, for the OT, PT and S&L staff, for Guidance, the Guided Reading book room.
- Expand the library, computer lab, and nurse's office to improve educational function.
- Create accessible grassy play space for use during recess.
- Reorganize traffic and pedestrian routes into and out of the site to enhance safety and reduce traffic problems.

Concerns that have been submitted or addressed include:

- Roof, windows, HVAC, data wiring and electrical systems are all old and in need of replacement or significant updating.
- The facility's interior is aging, and needs updating both to support 21st century instruction and to remain a positive work environment for the future.
- In February of 2003, an Elementary Parity Task Force presented its findings to the School Committee. Among its findings were recommendations for additional or improved spaces for the library, computer lab, special education, school administration and gymnasium.
- Site traffic flow and pedestrian access have long been problematic and should be reorganized to enhance safety and reduce traffic congestion. Parking is inadequate and should be expanded.

As the building ages, the Elmwood School has developed problems:

**Hopkinton School Committee - email: [hpsschoolcommittee@hopkinton.k12.ma.us](mailto:hpsschoolcommittee@hopkinton.k12.ma.us)**

- Unit ventilators & valves are in poor condition. As a result, classrooms are either too cold or overheat.
- Windows are single pane steel casement in the 1964 section, are inefficient, damaged, and leak both water and air.
- Electrical outlets are insufficient for contemporary technology uses. Wireless capability is uneven in the building; telephone and alarm systems, while adequate, lack features that are now standard in newer facilities. The main data closet is small and does not have air conditioning.
- The 2006 Habeeb & Associates Capital Asset Assessment declared that the building's roof should be replaced. In the last 3 summers, the maintenance department has addressed school roof leaks via patches to the roof. The roof was replaced in the summer of 2013.
- The interior has become old and tired. Ceiling tile dates back to 1964; walls need painting; VAT floor tile is old and worn. Gymnasium flooring is sheet vinyl and the School Committee would like to replace that covering with a wooden gym floor.

- **What are the concerns related to enrollment?**

The November 2016 enrollment projections from NESDEC (New England School Development Council) predicts an addition of over 300 students to our district over the next 10 years. They attribute 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. At the Elmwood School, class size already averages 22 students per class and there are currently no available classroom spaces. With the movement of the preschool to Marathon Elementary School in the fall of 2018, 4 classroom spaces will become available and will provide room for growth in the short term. The longer-term capacity concerns, the condition of the building, and the time it takes to complete a building project, highlights the need to begin the process now.

- **Why is now the right time to fund Elmwood School Solution?**

The School Committee and Board of Selectmen have certified their approval for the submission of a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority. If the district is selected to participate, it is in our best interest to be ready to move forward with a feasibility study. Otherwise, a special town meeting would be required within the MSBA's timeframe to seek town approval

- **What is the cost of the proposed Elmwood School Solution?**

The total cost to the town is \$600,000. less potential MSBA funding (up to 50%). No money will be borrowed or spent unless and until the MSBA invites us into the project timeline.

- **What is the impact to the school district if this Article does not pass?**

If this article does not pass, it could prevent the timely solution to the Elmwood School. Additionally, a delay could result in the need for a Special Town Meeting at additional cost to the town.