

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

from the ABINGTON SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE (ASBC)
February 2014



Is a new school being proposed in Abington?

Yes, a new Grades 5-12 co-located Middle/High School, with an area for Pre-K education, is being designed for Abington. Research and planning by the Abington School Building Committee started in 2012 and will continue into 2014. Go to www.ASBC.us for more details.

When do we vote whether to approve the new school's construction?

We expect that a Special Town Meeting will be held in the late fall of 2014, and then a separate ballot box election will also be held soon thereafter.

Will the different age groups be separated in this new co-located school?

Yes, it will be "three schools in one building". High school students will be in one wing and middle school students will be in a separate wing. In the middle school, Grades 5&6 will be on the 1st floor and Grades 7&8 will be on the 2nd floor. The Pre-K classrooms will also be separated from the rest of the student population. Each wing will have separate entrances for its students and there will be different school day start and end times for the high school and middle school.

Where will the new school be constructed?

On town-owned land behind the existing Abington High School.



Will the new school have an auditorium? gyms? more technology?

Yes, although the exact designs and details are still being discussed at ASBC meetings.

Is the state paying for part of Abington's new school?

We expect that Abington will qualify for a MSBA school construction grant to pay for 55-60% of the project's cost. Site plans and building plans must be submitted this summer; the state should announce exact state funding details in August or September of 2014.



When will construction of the new school be completed?

If the Town votes to approve the new school in late 2014, construction should start in late 2015 and be completed in late 2017 or early 2018. The existing high school will then be razed the following year.

If the State pays for 55-60% of the project, then how much will it cost me?

As an example, using preliminary cost estimates and assumptions regarding state grant money, a \$45 million debt exclusion for 30 yrs at a 4.5% borrowing rate would cost the average homeowner about \$600 per year (\$150 per quarterly tax bill) starting sometime in 2017 or 2018. The amount will then DECREASE every year thereafter. Note that other existing town debt exclusions will be paid off by 2017 (Town Office/Library/Sewer) and about 2/3 of homeowners will pay less than the above estimate, while 1/3 of homeowners will pay more. Detailed cost estimates and specific tax information will be available before the 2014 Special Town Meeting.

How can I get more information and updates?

Get more info by logging on to www.ASBC.us today and "Subscribe to News".



DID YOU KNOW?

Three of Abington's school buildings opened in the 1930's, two opened in the 1950's, and one opened in 1963 – all before the U.S. put a Man on the Moon!

The construction of a new school building was shown to **(1) Save Money, (2) Save Time, (3) Provide Lower Maintenance & Higher Energy Efficiency, and (4) Require a Smaller Building Footprint** when compared to all renovation/addition proposals to our existing schools.

The proposal to build a new Grades 5-12 Middle/High School will alleviate overcrowding issues at ALL grade levels, and will allow expanded Kindergarten classes.



The cost to renovate the Frolio School and High School just to bring the buildings up to current Codes (ADA, electric, fire safety, etc) was calculated to be \$22 million. This would add no new technology, no science labs, and no new classroom space -- and no state grant money is available to help the town pay for those Code renovations.

Each town that has built a new school has seen a return of students from private schools to the public school system, due to the updated technology, science labs, performing arts and athletic facilities, and higher quality learning environments.

Our neighbors in Rockland, Hanover, East Bridgewater, Duxbury, Whitman, Hanson, Weymouth, West Bridgewater, Brockton, Marshfield and Plymouth have all voted to build a new school with state construction grant money.

For more info, please go to www.ASBC.us
or call ASBC Chairperson
Richard Testa at 781-857-2135