



# Potential School Building Project

Westwood Public Schools

- **Westwood is known for investing in its schools. The District is widely recognized among the best in Massachusetts.**
- **Three of our elementary school buildings are in need of modernization. Deerfield and Hanlon were built in the 1950s; Sheehan was built in the 1940s.**



# What are we doing?

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- Need to figure out how to address our school building needs
- Makes sense to get funding from state
  - Westwood received significant state funding in the past for high school, Martha Jones, and Downey
  - Invited into the “eligibility phase” for our next project
  - Need to take the next step with the state this spring if we want to continue in the funding process

# Hitting the “reset button”

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- **Some work was done a couple of years ago to think about possible solutions to our building needs, BUT...**
  - **Realized that we needed to do a better job engaging the community in the decision-making process.**
  - **Realized that we wanted to work with MSBA and had to work within their prescribed process.**

# MSBA Process

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- Recently, the District took initial steps towards receiving grants from the Mass. School Building Authority. (Reimbursement around 31-34% of the cost of the project.)
- The MSBA voted to invite Westwood into its eligibility period. (9 months)
- During the eligibility period, community is asked to approve borrowing to undertake a feasibility study.
- If funding is secured for feasibility study, then the community has the opportunity to engage in a long process to identify all possible projects and determine the preferred option. (30 months)

# Deerfield School

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- Built in 1953
- Originally designed to be a bomb shelter
- Modular addition in 1995 brought total square footage to slightly more than 35,000



# Paul Hanlon School

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- Built in 1951
- Three-room modular addition in 2004
- Slightly less than 35,000 square feet
- Sits on approximately 36 acres of land



# William Sheehan School

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- Oldest and largest of Town's elementary schools
- Built in 1948
- Addition in the '60s brought total square footage to 50,000
- Sits on approximately 4.27 acres of land



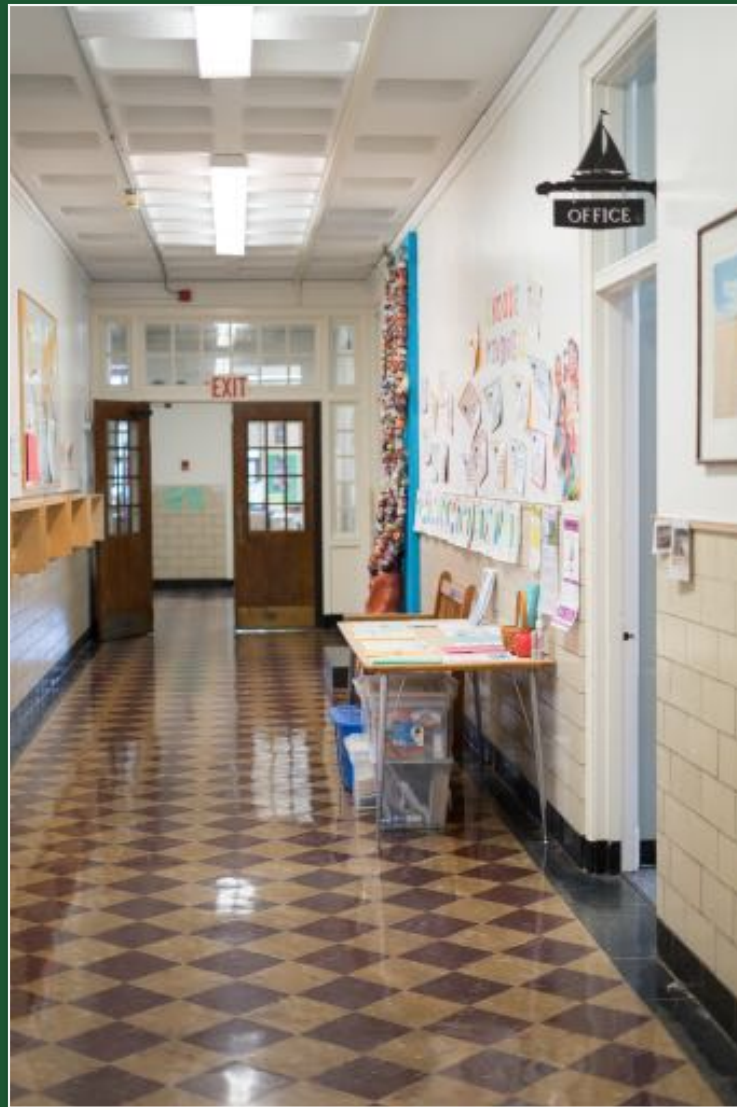
We're all learning...

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- While we continue to care for and maintain critical building systems — like HVAC and plumbing — they are old, inefficient, and approaching the end of their useful life.
- Air quality and temperature problems caused by old, faulty HVAC systems have a negative impact on learning.





# Classroom Sizes

- Standard classrooms (grades 1-6) built today range from 950 to 1,300 sq. ft. Kindergarten classrooms are 1,100 to 1,300 sq. ft.
- Majority of Hanlon's classrooms are 895 sq. ft. The kindergarten classrooms are extremely small.
- At Sheehan, classrooms in original 1948 portion of building are 685 sq. ft. In the 1968 addition, they are 900 sq. ft. Kindergarten rooms are approximately 1,100 sq. ft. **Approximately 90% of Sheehan's classrooms are undersized by today's standards.**
- At Deerfield, there are four classrooms that are approximately 800 sq. ft. The remaining rooms are 1,056 sq. ft. (within today's standards).



**Ft. Banks School, Winthrop**







**Burlington Memorial School**





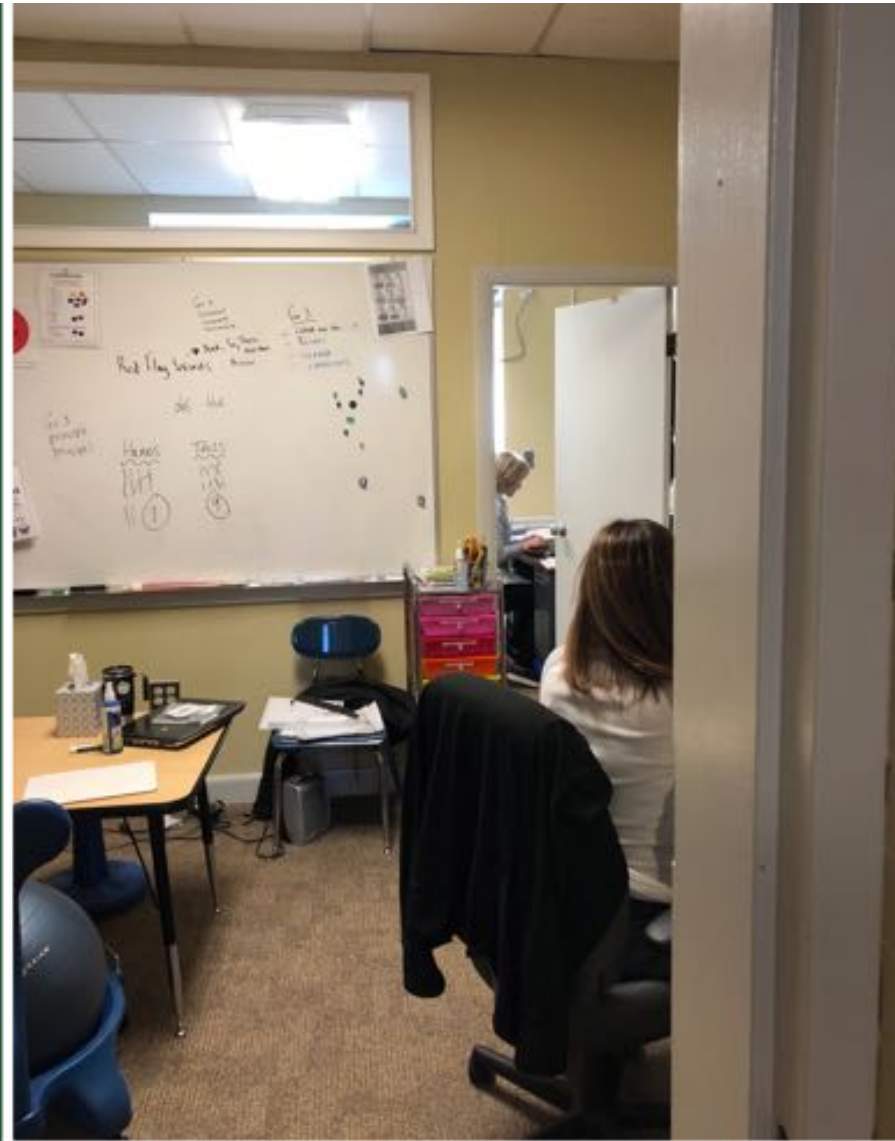
**Bancroft School, Andover**



**Bancroft School, Andover**









**The District is in the process of learning how to make fiscally responsible decisions to transform schools into modern places of learning that are ADA compliant, respectful of the needs of all students, and able to accommodate current and anticipated educational methodology.**



# Next Steps

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- At Town Meeting, article to approve borrowing an amount not to exceed \$1.75 million to fund the feasibility study.
- Feasibility study is the process for:
  - determining as a community how we might address our school needs
  - deciding the community's preferred solution
  - getting the MSBA to work with us and provide funds for project.

## Important Info

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- **Westwood has had successful projects with MSBA before (High school, Downey, Martha Jones) - the state reimbursement was really important to funding the projects.**
- **If project ultimately goes forward, funding for feasibility study is eligible for MSBA reimbursement.**
- **The borrowing for this phase will be paid for as part of Town's debt service - no override, no impact on school budget**

# Important Info

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- Ultimately, if a project goes forward, it would be 6-10 years before renovated or newly constructed schools opened.
- The process for deciding as a community what that project will be is still more than a year away
- Right now the only question is whether or not to go forward with the feasibility process.

# Stay Informed

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- [www.westwoodschoolbuilding.com](http://www.westwoodschoolbuilding.com)
- Twitter: @westwood\_ps
- Local newspapers, Town newsletter, Westwood Media Center