



# WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Honoring Tradition, Inspiring Excellence, Shaping the Future*

## COMMUNITY FORUMS INVITE QUESTIONS ABOUT WESTWOOD SCHOOLS BUILDING PROJECT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 23, 2018**

Westwood, MA—On Thursday, March 8 at 9am in the Sheehan School Library and Tuesday, March 20 at 7pm in the Hanlon School Gym, the Westwood Public Schools will host its first community forums about the school buildings project. All town residents are invited to attend and learn more about this extensive and important project. Superintendent of Schools Emily Parks and Westwood School Committee members will field questions from attendees. The District has invited Westwood Media Center (formerly WestCAT) to film the forums for later broadcast.

The forums will come on the heels of open-house style tours of the Sheehan, Deerfield and Hanlon Schools. As previously announced, the District is hosting those tours on Saturday, March 3, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon and Sunday, March 4, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. to visibly demonstrate the condition of the schools and the related impact on educational programs and facility management. Both the tours and the community forums are part of the District's commitment to continually engaging the community in the building project.

Although well-maintained, the Sheehan, Deerfield and Hanlon Schools date back to the late 1940s and early 1950s, and need to be modernized. The buildings are not fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). They lack sufficient and suitable space for programs like art and music; small group instruction and intervention services. Much of the existing plumbing and HVAC systems is original and nearing the end of useful life. The District is determined to make fiscally responsible decisions to transform the schools into modern places of learning—capable of utilizing new technology and adapting to new curricula in order to continue providing the highest quality education.

For more information on the forums and tours, or the overall project, visit [www.westwoodschoolbuilding.com](http://www.westwoodschoolbuilding.com).

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