



THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BROOKLINE
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FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

TO: Andrew Bott, Superintendent
FROM: Mary Ellen N. Dunn, Deputy Superintendent for Administration and Finance
Ben Lummis, Special Assistant to the Superintendent
DATE: September 10, 2018
RE: Project Update: Request for Schematic Design Funds for Baldwin and Driscoll Schools
and Update to Town Meeting Articles.

Since 2005, Brookline has experienced historic enrollment growth in its public schools. The K-8 elementary schools have grown by 40% going from 3,904 students in 2006 to 5,482 students in 2017, which is equivalent to adding three schools into our existing schools in just over 10 years. For a decade now, the Town and School Department have been addressing the expanding student population by studying potential sites for a new elementary school and by adding classrooms to existing schools by dividing classrooms; converting offices, locker rooms, and hallways into classrooms; renting private buildings; and building new classrooms or adding modular classes. Despite adding nearly 60 classrooms to our existing schools through this “Expand-in-Place” strategy, the schools continue to be severely overcrowded.

On June 13th, the Town completed its third study since 2013 on selecting a site for a new school. The Select Board and School Committee approved moving forward with expanding the Baldwin School, expanding and renovating the Driscoll School, and renovating and possibly expanding the Pierce School.

Expanding and renovating Baldwin, Driscoll, and Pierce over time allows the town to address the enrollment increases in North Brookline and South Brookline while not overbuilding in either part of town. The Baldwin School will directly address the ongoing and expected student enrollment growth that is projected to add 375 more students within three years. Driscoll and Pierce have both grown by more than 57% since 2006, and neither school has received significant upgrades or comprehensive renovations since the 1970s. The Baldwin and Driscoll projects will now begin what is known as the Design Feasibility Phase. The Town submitted an application earlier in the spring to partner with the Massachusetts School Building Authority to help ease the burden on the town of three significant capital projects.

Article 4: Baldwin School: To see if the Town will vote to release for expenditure the funds appropriated under Section 13, Special Appropriation No. 65 of Article 7 of the 2018 Annual Town Meeting as provided in said appropriation. The release of funds will support the requested School Committee Action below

School Committee Action:

1. Vote to request Article 4, of the 2018 Special Town Meeting Warrant support Baldwin School Expansion as determined by the outcome of the 9th School feasibility study.
2. Vote to request the release of \$1.5m Schematic Design Funds for the Baldwin School to be expended under the direction of the Building Commission with any necessary contracts to be approved by the Select Board and the School Committee.

Article 3.E Driscoll Elementary School: Appropriate \$1,500,000 to be expended under the direction of the Building Commissioner, with any necessary contracts to be approved by the Select Board and the School Committee, for the schematic design services to construct or expand a school as determined by the outcome of the 9th School feasibility study. The Driscoll Elementary School was submitted as and Statement of Interest (SOI) to the Massachusetts Building Authority in Spring of 2018. The SOI was later withdrawn, when it became apparent that Pierce Elementary would be the primary project for Brookline upon completion of the Coolidge Corner School. The Select Board and the School Committee have agreed that the Driscoll School needs to have renovation, repair, and expansion to meet the building needs in addition to enrollment needs.

School Committee Action:

1. Vote to request \$1.5m Schematic Design Funds from any sources of funds identified by the Board of Selectmen for the Driscoll School to be expended under the direction of the Building Commission with any necessary contracts to be approved by the Select Board and the School Committee.