

WHITMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL
100 CORTHELL AVENUE
WHITMAN, MA 02382

FEASIBILITY STUDY Q & A

Prepared by the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District

Why is there a potential building project at Whitman Middle School?

The Whitman Middle School opened 48 years ago. Although the building has been well-maintained, the facility is in need of many repairs and upgrades to meet 21st century educational and safety standards.

Keeping the Whitman Middle School in operating order is costly to taxpayer!



THE MOST PRESSING ISSUES ARE:

***MOLD AND MOISTURE RELATED PROBLEMS PRIMARILY IN THE GYMNASIUM –LIKELY REQUIRE REPLACING THE ROOF AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HVAC SYSTEM?**

***DAMAGES STEMMING FROM MOISTURE PROBLEMS IN THE GYMNASIUM HAVE LED TO REPLACEMENT OF FLOOR SECTIONS! WHEN THE PROBLEM IS RESOLVED, THE ROOF IS REPLACED AND THE GYM FLOOR WILL ALSO NEED TO BE REPLACED AS MOLD HAS LIKELY BEEN GROWING UNDER THE FLOOR FOR SOME TIME!**

***HEATING UNITS IN THE BUILDING ARE FAR PAST THEIR USEFUL LIFE AND NEED TO BE REPLACED!**

***FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY ISSUES NEED TO BE ADDRESSED, INCLUDING STORAGE SPACE CORRECTIONS TO WALL PENETRATIONS AND FIRE ALARMS!**

*A general renovation would extend the life of the building, a replacement of community used lockers, plumbing fixtures and HVAC equipment would make conditions in the school better for all occupants and town activities!

**2015 Wentworth Building Assessment Report*

How is this facility problem being addressed?

The Whitman-Hanson Regional School District submitted a Statement of Interest (SOI) to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) that described the facility issues at Whitman Middle School.

What is the Massachusetts School Building Authority?

The MSBA is a state grant program that works with local communities to identify school facility needs, develop fiscally responsible and educationally appropriate solutions, and create safe, sound, and sustainable learning environments.

How does the Whitman Middle School project qualify for grant funding from MSBA?

After the Statement of Interest is reviewed, MSBA determines whether a project merits moving forward to organize a building committee. This is called “being in the pipeline.” The Whitman Middle School project was put “in the pipeline,” and a building committee was formed and approved by MSBA.

What is a feasibility study?

A feasibility study is conducted by a MSBA approved project manager who conducts a comprehensive study of the Whitman Middle School. When completed, this study provides the Committee and Whitman taxpayers with information about the best and most cost effective solution for Whitman Middle School. The study answers the questions: Will the Middle School be renovated? Will the Middle School be replaced?

How much does the feasibility study cost?

MSBA estimates that a comprehensive feasibility study for Whitman Middle will cost about \$850,000. However, because Whitman Middle School is “in the pipeline,” the study is eligible for reimbursement of around 57.74%. Thus, the cost to taxpayers is significantly less, at around \$359,000.

How does this study get funded?

At the Whitman Town Meeting on Monday, July 27, Whitman voters will be presented with a warrant article addressing the funding of a feasibility study for Whitman Middle School.

When do we know what will happen to Whitman Middle?

There are two scenarios. If a feasibility study is funded, the architect will conduct a comprehensive study and will recommend renovation, replacement, or the construction of an addition to an existing school. At that time, voters will vote on the proposed project which will also be eligible for reimbursement percentage from MSBA. If a feasibility study is not funded, taxpayers will continue to pay dollar for dollar – no reimbursement – for repairs to Whitman Middle School.

Thank you for caring about the children
and future of education in Whitman!



This information is brought to you by the
Whitman-Hanson Regional School District