

LONGMEADOW SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

www.longmeadow.org/sbc

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On Wednesday February 9th, the Longmeadow School Building Committee (SBC) reached another milestone for the Longmeadow High School Project by voting unanimously to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) a building project based on 185,000 square feet of new construction and 52,000 square feet of renovated academic, athletic and office spaces. This combination of new construction and renovation has an estimated cost of **\$78.5 million**.

The SBC completed thorough studies of the current high school building and the alternatives for addressing the deficiencies. The deficiencies of the existing facility are significant and include the state of the physical infrastructure, health and safety issues, lack of ADA and current building code compliance. In addition, the current building does not adequately meet the educational program from core academics to athletics and visual/performing arts. Narrowing options to one included a comprehensive assessment of priorities, program and mandated requirements, and numerous series of community meetings over the last year to garner resident and Town Boards' input.

In making its final determination, the members of the SBC systematically worked through a list of assessment criteria. Results of the summary assessment can be found as part of the feasibility study submitted to the MSBA and is posted on the School Building Committee website at www.longmeadow.org/sbc.

Many of the criteria are quantitative and obvious; others are qualitative and subject to opinion. A list of the primary factors in making the decision were as follows: the new/reno approach offered a more functional layout for the educational program, less risk to the town both cost-wise and time-wise, less impact on students and staff during the multiple phases and years of construction, and an opportunity to build for the future.

The SBC has forwarded information on this decision and the summary assessment to the MSBA to add to the work already provided to receive partial state funding. The SBC is committed to working in collaboration with the MSBA in this building project effort. At this juncture, the MSBA is reviewing the documentation.

Over the coming months, efforts will focus on working closely with the MSBA on securing a positive scope and budget outcome at the MBSA Board Meeting in March. Longmeadow residents have been provided a short window of opportunity to positively influence the present and future of our town. Now is the time to forge the future in the best possible way for the students, for the residents and for the town. It is an exciting opportunity for the community to provide a facility, the cornerstone of our educational system, around which the community can rally and take pride in the result.

We look forward to engaging all residents as much as possible during these efforts and welcome input at our email: longmeadowsbc@yahoo.com