

W. EDWARD BALMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FEASIBILITY STUDY

DORE & WHITTIER ARCHITECTS

Questions & Answers from Forum #2 – 8/28/17

Q: How did the student enrollments for the feasibility study get developed?

Once the MSBA reviews a community's Statement of Interest (SOI) and determines that there is a project need, the MSBA determines the projected enrollment. This process includes working with each community to obtain local information, such as birth data, housing permits and planned developments. In Northbridge's case, the MSBA provided their initial projections and then increased them based on our review and input.

Q: What happens if our Special Education population increases?

The MSBA includes space for our Special Education students in their space guidelines. The MSBA allows for each community to adjust the number of Special Education spaces to fit each community's specific needs. The School Department has been working closely with the architects to provide for the space needs for our Special Education population.

Q: Can the details behind the student enrollment projections be shared?

Yes, the enrollment projection data received from the MSBA is posted on the W. Edward Balmer School Building project website at www.nps.org/sbc.

Q: When does "green" technology get studied/incorporated?

The Sustainable Design, or green technology, features will be studied and developed during the Feasibility Study phase of the project.

Q: If the project proceeds, what are the future needs of the MS and HS?

The future needs of the Middle School and the High School are not a part of the Balmer school project. The only aspect of the Middle School related to the Balmer school is the potential placement of the 5th grade students within the PreK-5 Balmer School option.

Q: What is the contingency plan if this project does not move forward?

The town would be required to spend approximately \$53 million on the aged Balmer and Northbridge elementary schools without any state reimbursement. This expenditure would address code deficiencies, deferred maintenance, and basic functional upgrades, but would not address any educational program issues in the buildings, such as number/location/size of classrooms, shortage of special education space, site deficiencies, etc.

Q: Can the project cost be broken down to identify the impact on our residential taxes?

Yes, the School Building Committee will be working with town officials to determine the impact on our residential taxes for each of the options being studied.

Q: Can corporate sponsors be sought for certain aspects of the project?

Certain aspects of the project that are outside a MSBA funded project may be able to be funded by third party sponsorships or other community initiatives.

Q: How could NES be repurposed for the benefit of the town? Could it be made into a fire station?

Repurposing NES could be a significant benefit to the town if the PreK-5 option were to be approved. Recent examples in other communities have repurposed former schools into housing, community centers, and fire stations.