

Goffstown Facilities Planning Committee

Subcommittee Report out
Monday, October 24, 2022

Executive Summary

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Committee's Charge

To evaluate current and anticipated spaces needs in the Goffstown Schools, to explore options to renovate and expand the current buildings, to explore options to build a new school. The Building Committee will develop recommendations to be presented to the Goffstown School Board

► Members

- » 3 GSB members
- » SAU Facilities Director, Business Administrator
- » 1 Budget Committee member
- » 1 New Boston School Board member
- » Community Members

Accepted Assumptions / Facts

- ▶ There are currently 5 public schools within Goffstown
 - » 3 elementary schools
 - ▶ 1 school Pre-k through Kindergarten – all “half day”
 - ▶ 2 schools Grade 1 through 4
 - » 1 Middle School
 - ▶ Grades 5 through 8
 - » 1 High School
 - ▶ Grades 9 through 12
- ▶ The State Building Aid Program has very limited funding, and currently none is available to Goffstown
 - » If aid does become available, Goffstown will most likely not qualify or be a top tier candidate
 - » Any buildings would need to be financed through bonds, which require approval at Town Meeting with a 60% vote

Accepted Assumptions / Facts

- ▶ Education Freedom Accounts (EFAs) will continue and can affect our future school budgets and capacity
 - » The committee does not know the accurate number of students in the town that are utilizing the EFA
- ▶ There is no accurate information related to private kindergarten aged students that attend the school district's first grade class
- ▶ Extension of Goffstown / New Boston Area agreement ratified by both towns (2024-2034)
- ▶ NB has planned housing of 300 approved building lots that have not yet been developed
- ▶ Recent trending is that NB school enrollments at MVMS and GHS are slightly increasing in proportion to total school enrollments

Accepted Assumptions / Facts (continued)

- ▶ Building Student Capacity (with portables) is as follows:
(dependent on class sizes and adherence to both District and State recommendations)
 - » Glen Lake (dependent on half day programs and current Special Education pre-school needs = 275-300
 - » Bartlett = 200-225
 - » Maple Ave = 500-550
 - » MVMS = 1100-1200
 - » GHS = 1200-1350

DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY

Demographic study's takeaways

- ▶ There was a small sample size that was used for the assessment as it only related to Goffstown
- ▶ Existing housing sales are occurring
 - » Student attrition through graduation is being replaced with new students through existing home sales
- ▶ Current New housing
 - » Current new housing projects are not projected to impact the school system in a significant way
 - » 14-19 students expected from the Bog Road Development
 - » Factory Street Housing is estimated to produce less than 10 students

Demographic study's takeaways (continued)

▶ Future New Housing

- » New single family housing developments may significantly impact the School System
- » School Age Children ratio of 1.64 children per unit should be used, which is higher than the state average of .64
- » School Age Children ratio of .44 children per unit should be used for townhouse new development
- » School Age Children ratio of .17 children per unit should be used for garden style flat new development

Demographic study's takeaways (continued)

- ▶ % change for 2017 through 2021
 - » Glen Lake (up) 16%
 - » Bartlett (down) 1%
 - » Maple went (up) 4.91%
 - » MVMS (up) 2.68%
 - » GHS (down) 11.23%

COMMITTEE ANALYSIS

Committee's Analysis

- ▶ Capacity
 - » There is overall student enrollment capacity based on enrollments by grade in the Goffstown School District
 - ▶ MVMS and GHS have student space needs capacity available
 - ▶ Elementary schools are close to or “at capacity” and are being over utilized due to student needs (specialized services and programs)
 - ▶ Glen Lake can currently accommodate a half day program, but not a full day kindergarten program
- ▶ Individual Education Plans have the potential to increase single student space needs and therefore decrease overall class student capacity

Committee's Analysis (continued)

- ▶ Full Day Kindergarten
 - » Current infrastructure at Glen Lake School does not support full day kindergarten based on state regulations (section 321)
 - ▶ No Cafeteria, Gymnasium, nor Library
 - ▶ 1,000 square feet, including storage, or 50 square feet per child, whichever is greater
 - » Initiative would require either a new facility, expanded facility, or school grade change(s)

Committee's Analysis (Continued)

- ▶ Capital Improvements / Replacements
 - » Current Capital Planning strategy is adequate for existing schools
 - » Historically, voter approved school district funding does not always meet capital plans, which leads to capital needs shortfall
 - » Real-estate footprint at Maple & Bartlett is at capacity
 - » Traffic patterns have changed
 - ▶ Substantial increase in parent vehicles vs pedestrian pickups at lower grades
 - ▶ Bus and parent vehicles are in the same traffic patterns

COMMITTEE OPTIONS

Committee's Options

▶ Space Needs

- » Consider moving 4th grade to MVMS to alleviate needs at Maple and Bartlett
 - ▶ Redesign spaces at Maple and Bartlett for student and specialized needs
- » Consider moving 8th grade to GHS to alleviate needs at MVMS
 - ▶ Redesign spaces at MVMS to include Maple and Bartlett 4th grade students and IEP needs
- » Consider Building a New Elementary School adjacent to GHS
 - ▶ Includes decommissioning Glen Lake (optional) Maple Ave, and Bartlett
 - ▶ Includes decommissioning Glen Lake and Bartlett; moving Pre-K and Kindergarten to Maple Ave if full day Kindergarten warranted
- » Consider a Building addition(s) to Glen Lake School
 - ▶ Allows for possibility of having Pre-K through grades at Glen Lake
 - ▶ Allows “re-distributing” pre-K through grades at all elementary schools

Committee's Options

▶ Kindergarten

- » Not to implement “Full-day” kindergarten unless the State mandates “full-day” kindergarten
- » Implement “full-day” kindergarten through budgeting process
 - ▶ Propose increase in budget line items for “new spend” associated with increase in faculty, staff, consumables, infrastructure (tables & chairs), and utilities
 - ▶ Migrate kindergarten to Maple Ave Elementary school
 - ▶ Migrate 4th grade from Elementary schools to MVMS
- » Add resolution article to a next town meeting vote for “full-day” kindergarten budget planning
 - ▶ i.e. a budget article to develop the plan for full day kindergarten

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee's Recommendations for action

- ▶ Monitor planned housing developments and take action if new housing or townhouse developments are approved and under contract
- ▶ Increase rigor in coordinated communications through different channels and mediums
 - » GTV, post voting day displays, newsletters, Old Home Days, Activities on Main Street(s)
- ▶ Gather research on student benefits from full day Kindergarten vs part-time
- ▶ Define and establish short, medium, and long-term triggers that require action when enrollment at the school level continues to approach capacity year over year
- ▶ Relocation of education programs to accommodate space needs

Committee's Recommendations for Actions

- ▶ If the School Board wants to implement full day kindergarten, the following actions should be taken
 - » Build out Glen Lake to encompass pre-K and K only
- ▶ If established triggers for enrollment capacities are met
 - » Consider migration of grades to different schools
 - » Consider portable classrooms
 - » Consider classroom reconfiguration within the school
 - » Consider building a new school