

District: Plymouth
School Name: Plymouth North High School
Category: Model School Program

Recommendation

That the Town of Plymouth be invited into the Model School Program to explore the potential to adapt and re-use a model high school design.

Background

The Plymouth Public Schools consist of one pre-school, eight elementary schools, two middle schools and two high schools which serve a student population of over 8,200 students. The District submitted two SOIs, one for each of its high schools, Plymouth North and Plymouth South.

Plymouth North High School, built in 1963, is situated on 40 acres and was originally opened in 1963 as a regional high school serving grades 9 – 12. The school was originally designed to accommodate 800 students and currently contains approximately 1050 students. The school is a three-story building, had a renovation in 1984, which added 14 modular classrooms and that services approximately 250 students. The units, purchased by the District and refurbished, had already been in use elsewhere for six years and are more than 20 years beyond their life expectancy. The building, with the modular classrooms, is approximately 155,000 square feet. The building systems are at the end of their useful life and in need of replacement. Additionally, the Plymouth South High School which was designed for approximately 1,200 students currently houses approximately 1,400 students.

The District's future plans for the Plymouth North High School site, separate from this project and any funds received from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, include consideration of constructing a senior center. In addition, the proposed development of Plymouth Rock Studios (Hollywood East) will potentially be constructed bordering Plymouth South High School property. The Plymouth Schools and the developers of the studio are working collectively to incorporate vocational programs with studio skilled trades.

Given the success of the Model School Pilot Program with Norwood, MSBA staff recommend that due to its enrollment and suitable site, the Town of Plymouth be invited into the Model School Pilot Program to explore, in collaboration with the MSBA, whether a model school might be an educationally appropriate school and size for the Town of Plymouth.