

District: Whitman Hanson Regional School District
School Name: Maquan Elementary School
Category: Feasibility Study

Recommendation

That the Statement of Interest (SOI) for the Maquan Elementary School located in the Town of Hanson be placed in the Feasibility Study category to study potential solutions to programmatic deficiencies and aging systems at the facility.

Background

The District submitted an SOI for one of its seven schools, the Maquan Elementary School. Built in 1963, the structure is a two-story split-level with a wing at the rear, and core facilities on an intermediate level at the front of the building. The building is approximately 76,000 square feet in size, including the addition of the rear classroom wing in 1985. Originally designed as a K-5 elementary school facility, it has since evolved into a Pre K through grade 2 early childhood center for the Town of Hanson and also houses programs and three classrooms for multi-handicapped students from the North River Collaborative.

According to the SOI, the district's specific goals are to bring the Maquan Elementary School up to a level of functionality by addressing electrical, heating, safety and access codes while restructuring the location of the office to make it more central to the students and provide classrooms that are attractive and practical for children from ages three to eight. In addition, the district would like elevator access to all floors. . According to the SOI, only minor work has occurred on the building enclosure systems through the years. Many of the original envelope components are in need of replacement or repair. For the most part, existing masonry walls are in satisfactory condition, including steel lintels over windows and doors. Original window and exterior door systems are steel, with single-pane windows. The aluminum window systems in the addition are glazed with lexan, which is severely clouded and in need of replacement. Roofing is original tar and gravel on a significant portion of the building, with ongoing leaks in areas such as the administrative area. Gutters are leaking at seams and leakage is damaging wood fascias and soffits. The SOI concludes that the structure is strong but the systems need to be brought up to code on a number of levels and the building needs to be re-focused to deal with a younger early childhood population.

Based on a recent visit to the Maquan Elementary School, MSBA staff recommend that the school be placed in the feasibility study category to further study the appropriate solution to the identified problems.