

District: Franklin
School Name: Franklin High School
Category: Feasibility Study

Recommendation

That the Statement of Interest (SOI) for the Franklin High School located in the Town of Franklin be moved from the Hold Category to the Feasibility Study Category to study potential solutions to programmatic deficiencies and aging systems at the facility.

Discussion

The District submitted an SOI for one of its eleven schools, the Franklin High School. Built in 1971, the building, approximately 327,000 SF, is composed of a one and two-story building situated on a 71-acre site. The current enrollment is 1,584 students. The school's functional layout is to deliver an academy style educational program or a small community style educational program. Although the building footprint is expansive, its circulation is well organized into separate wings with access to centrally located program areas.

The District's specific goals are to bring Franklin High School up to a level of functionality that would provide students with state of the art technology and science labs, with opportunities to engage in performance arts through audio-visual production, theater arts and technology/engineering/robotics. The District's main concerns about the facility include: ADA issues in the academic wings, the boys locker room and the portion of the school that houses the former auto shop, wood shop, metal shop, and graphic arts/drafting. The District also mentioned accreditation issues and issues with the science labs which are original to the building and are outdated. The District indicated that certain systems need to be upgraded, including the electrical, technology (wiring or wireless), HVAC and system controls. The District also is concerned with the school's asbestos tiles that are located throughout the majority of the building.

According to the SOI, minor work has occurred on the building enclosure systems through the years. This includes window replacement (double paned insulated commercial windows) in 2004, except in the garage and the Field House where the original windows remain. The old tar and gravel roof was replaced with an EPDM single ply membrane roof. The District has done work on the interior of the building including replacement of student lockers, installation of a new fire alarm system, bell system, phone system, digital video surveillance system and installation of sprinkler system in the main corridor.

The MSBA has been working with the District to better understand the facility's deficiencies and the needs of the District. Based on a recent senior study visit to the Franklin High School, MSBA staff recommends that the SOI be moved to the Feasibility Study category to further study the appropriate solution to the identified problems.

