

District: Williamsburg
School Name: Anne T. Dunphy Elementary School
Category: Feasibility Study

Recommendation

That the Statement of Interest (SOI) for the Anne T. Dunphy Elementary School located in the Town of Williamsburg be moved from the Hold category and placed in the Feasibility Study category to study potential solutions to programmatic deficiencies and aging systems at the facility.

Background

The Town of Williamsburg has two elementary schools accommodating grades K-6. As part of the Hampshire Regional School District, Grades 7 to 12 attend the Hampshire Regional High School. The Town submitted a Statement of Interest for both of its elementary schools and prioritized the Anne T. Dunphy School, a single-story brick building built in 1952. The school building is approximately 22,740 square feet situated on 7.6 acres. The Dunphy School serves grades 3-6 with a current enrollment of 97 students.

According to the SOI, the retrofitting of this building in 1986 provided six standard classrooms and a few smaller sized classrooms. In addition, work on the core of the building was undertaken and included the installation of single pane glass windows with exterior storm windows, the installation of a peaked roof with additional insulation, and upgrades to the lighting system in 75% of the building. A handicap accessible bathroom and a wheelchair lift were also installed. In 2006, the balance of the lighting system upgrade was completed, a unit ventilator was rebuilt and humidistat and exhaust fans were added to reduce interior moisture build up. The boilers are original to the building and are encased in asbestos as is most of the plumbing associated with the heating system. Water continues to flow under the building. Floor fans, dehumidifiers and manual enhancement of ventilation help keep the building dry and limit the growth of mold.

The District would like to combine the Anne T. Dunphy and the other elementary school in the District. The Helen James, built in 1913, houses Grades K-2 with a student population of 78. This school also has significant deficiencies that affect safety and educational programming as noted in a study commissioned by the District in 2003. The study suggests that to address the facility needs and to meet current elementary educational requirements in the District, a consolidation of the two facilities should be explored as a solution.

MSBA staff has been working with the District to understand the building's deficiencies and the needs of the District. Staff recommends moving the SOI for the Dunphy School to the Feasibility Study category to further study the appropriate solution to the identified problems.