

District: Town of Hopkinton
School Name: Center Elementary School
Recommended Category: Feasibility Study Invite (Second Vote)
Date: March 18, 2015

Recommendation

That the Board vote to amend its March 26, 2014 Invitation to Feasibility Study vote for the Center Elementary School in the Town of Hopkinton based on an updated design enrollment of 395 students in grades K-1, in place of the previously approved design enrollment of 355 students in grades K-1.

Discussion

Subsequent to the Board's vote of March 26, 2014, to authorize the Town of Hopkinton (the "District") to proceed into Feasibility Study, the District presented additional enrollment information and changes within the District's educational delivery plan for the MSBA's consideration. The District submitted its Preliminary Design Program on February 11, 2015, which included this information and requested the MSBA's review of the agreed upon enrollment. Based on its review of the additional information, and as presented at the March 11, 2015 Facilities Assessment Subcommittee Meeting, staff notes the following:

- The additional year of DESE enrollment data (2014-2015) was sufficiently greater than originally projected and had an impact on the previous projection;
- The grade to grade survival ratios for students in elementary school grades demonstrated an increasing trend;
- The District has implemented tuition-free full day kindergarten, which became effective in the 2014-2015 school year;
- The proposed grade configuration (which is the same as the currently existing configuration) is not as accommodating to fluctuations in enrollment as the more typical elementary school configuration that includes more than two grades; and
- This is the only school in the District for grades 1 and 2, which also limits the flexibility to accommodate fluctuations in annual enrollments.

MSBA staff reviewed the updated enrollment information with the District and have mutually agreed to an updated design enrollment for the proposed project at the Center Elementary School of 395 students in grades K-1, serving grades PK-1.

Based on the review outlined above, staff recommends that the Town of Hopkinton be approved to proceed with its Feasibility Study based upon an updated design enrollment of 395 students in grades K-1, in place of the previously approved design enrollment of 355 students in grades K-1.