

November 10, 2015

Presented by:

Minuteman School Committee
and School Building Committee



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Minuteman High School Building Project

Presentation for the Town of Belmont

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Welcome

- Ford Spalding, Chair, Minuteman School Building Committee
- Kevin Mahoney, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Minuteman High School
- Dr. Edward Bouquillon, Superintendent, Minuteman High School

Introductory Video



Who We Are

- Minuteman was established as a regional vocational-technical school district in the 1970s.
- Minuteman is one of 26 regional voc-techs in Massachusetts.
- Minuteman has 16 member towns.

What We Do

- We deliver robust academics and powerful career and technical skills. This combination gives students ***a competitive advantage*** in the new economy.
- We link high school to ***college and career***.
- When they go to college, Minuteman graduates go ***with a purpose***, knowing what they like, what they do well, and what they want to pursue.

The Massachusetts Model

- The vocational-technical delivery system in Massachusetts is widely recognized as the best in the country.
- We don't teach vocational-technical skills in isolation.
- We integrate robust academics.
- This rigor and relevance gets results.
- Our system is the envy of the nation.

Project Benefits

Construction of a new school:

- Is the most educationally beneficial for students
- Is the most affordable for taxpayers
- Safeguards our accreditation

Agenda

- Where the Project Stands
- A Look at the Upcoming Timeline
- Financing the Project
- Enrollment Issues
- Going It Alone
- The Decision-Making Process
- How Local Input Has Shaped the Project
- Questions and Answers



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Where We Are

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Where the Project Stands

- We began a Feasibility Study through the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) in 2009.
- Early this year, we gave you preliminary cost estimates for several options to improve our school facility.
- We held public meetings in 15 of our 16 communities, seeking input on the options. (89.1% of those completing a survey supported a new school.)
- The School Building Committee and School Committee decided on a “preferred solution” – construction of a new school.

Where the Project Stands

- On August 6, the MSBA Board of Directors unanimously voted to endorse our “preferred solution” – construction of a new school with a design enrollment of 628 students.
- The MSBA Board and its staff endorsed our Educational Program Plan which includes two Career Academies, 16 career technical education programs, and robust academic offerings.
- The MSBA Board moved us into “Module 4,” schematic design.
- A professional poll conducted by David Paleologos of DAPA Research, Inc. showed that 68.5% of district voters support construction of a new Minuteman High School.

Our Educational Program Plan

Engineering, Construction, & Trades Academy Programs	Shared Services & Programs		Life Sciences & Services Academy Programs
Advanced Manufacturing & Metal Fabrication 48.0501 / 48.0599	Nursing Services Library & Media Center Special Education		Culinary Arts & Hospitality 12.0500 / 52.0901
Automotive 47.0604	Common Planning Time		Cosmetology & Barbering 12.0404 / 12.0402
Carpentry 46.0201	Academic Programs		Early Education & Care 13.1210
Design & Visual Communications 50.0401	Chemistry, Science & Physics English Language Arts Mathematics Physical Education	Humanities Art & Music Guidance Counseling Career Development Advanced Placement	Health Occupations 51.0000
Electrical 46.0302	Common Core CVTE Competencies		Environmental Science 15.0507
Multi-Media Engineering 09.0701	Health & Safety Entrepreneurship Financial Literacy	Digital Literacy Career Guidance Work based Learning Internships & Co-Op	Biotechnology 15.0401
Plumbing & HVAC 46.0603 / 47.0201	Reading Consultancy Student Portfolios Executive Purpose Project Based Learning		Horticulture & Landscaping Tech 1.0601
Programming & Web Development 11.0201			
Robotics Engineering Automation 15.0000 / 15.0403			

EXISTING CONDITIONS



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PROPOSED SITE PLAN



LOWER LEVEL

LEGEND

- CLASSROOM
- LABS/ SHOP AREAS
- SPED & SUPPORT
- CORE FACILITIES
- ADMIN & TEACHER
- SUPPORT / STORAGE
- MECH, ELEC, TOILET ROOMS



MAIN LEVEL

LEGEND

-  CLASSROOM
-  LABS/ SHOP AREAS
-  SPED & SUPPORT
-  CORE FACILITIES
-  ADMIN & TEACHER
-  SUPPORT / STORAGE
-  CIRCULATION
-  MECH, ELEC, TOILET ROOMS



BIRDS-EYE VIEW



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The MSBA Process and Timelines

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MSBA Module 4 - Design

- Nearing Completion: Robust Schematic Design, including Costs
- November 16: School Building Committee meets to recommend Schematic Design
- November 17: School Committee meets to approve Schematic Design
- December 1: Deadline for Schematic Design documents to be submitted to MSBA
- January 27, 2016: MSBA Board of Directors meets

Upcoming MSBA Modules

- Module 5 (Local Approval of Funding): By June 30, 2016
- Module 6 (Construction Management)
- Module 7 (Actual Construction)
- Module 8 (Project Completion): On or before September 2020



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Funding

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Funding by the Numbers

- Total project cost: Not to exceed \$144.9 million
- State reimbursement rate: At least 40% of eligible costs (**Caveat:** We will not know our eligible costs until we have a Project Scope and Budget from MSBA.)
- State reimbursement: Up to \$58 million
- Net cost: \$86.9 million
- Annual debt service: \$3.9 million
- Annual tax impact on median homeowner: \$6.67 to \$116.36

How Voc-Tech Compares

- By its very nature, vocational-technical education is more complex and costs more to deliver:
 - “Two schools in one” with nearly double the faculty
 - Investment in faculty with industry expertise is greater
 - Chapter 74 square footage requirements
 - Safety and health requirements
 - Major equipment needs
 - Infrastructure needs to mirror current industrial and business standards

How We Compare

- There have been several renovation projects at voc-tech schools.
- There are few comparable new construction projects.
- Essex Agricultural and Technical High School cost \$134.5 million. Construction began in 2012.
- Putnam Vocational Technical High School was built for \$114.3 million. It was completed in 2012.
- In today's dollars, we are in line with those projects.
- We will be within the range of cost per square foot designated by MSBA.



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Enrollment Issues

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Short-Term Challenges

- There's still some stigma in attending.
- We don't have a captive audience.
- The Minuteman option is poorly understood by students, families, and some town officials and educators.
- The physical condition of the aging Minuteman facility compares poorly to most schools in our member towns.
- The current political discord creates an atmosphere of uncertainty about the school's future.

Long-Term Opportunities

- A new, modern, attractive facility
- New career path offerings and a review and updating of all current vocational-technical programs
- A review of advanced academic offerings
- A new emphasis on making the school more welcoming to female students
- A better partnership between Minuteman and local educators
- A new approach to “marketing” guided by a national expert
- End of political discord and uncertainty about the school’s future

Minuteman's Position on Enrollment

- We analyzed multiple sources of data, including enrollment projections from the New England School Development Council (NESDEC)
- The data confirms a large pool of potential students
- We see shifting perceptions about the value of vocational-technical education (Pioneer Institute, Northeastern University, NPR Radio)
- Local guidance counselors see increasing demand
- We are developing more effective marketing efforts
- We are confident the enrollment goals are realistic

Powerful Outreach to Class of 2020

	2015 Total 8 th Grade Students	2015 Showcase Sign Ups	2014 Showcase Sign Ups	2015 % of 8th grade
Acton	357	153	9	43%
Boxborough	69	30	4	43%
Arlington	342	163	80	48%
Belmont	323	139	37	43%
Bolton	85	29	11	34%
Carlisle	77	42	15	55%
Concord	110	58	9	53%
Concord	91	51	9	56%
Dover	98	31	8	32%
Lancaster	75	37	26	49%
Lexington	259	116	20	45%
Lexington	287	105	31	37%
Lincoln	64	24	0	38%
Needham	406	135	24	33%
Stow	92	50	8	54%
Sudbury	325	62	16	19%
Wayland	219	89	4	41%
Weston	170	52	0	31%
	3092	1366	302	44%

MSBA's Position on Enrollment

- MSBA independently reviewed the data and determined that it demonstrated sufficient demand.
- MSBA concluded that it would not support building a school with a design enrollment of less than 600 students.
- If we want MSBA's financial support, we need to accept the current design enrollment of 628.



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Going It Alone

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Can We Do Nothing?

- There isn't a **“do nothing”** option.
- Critical repairs must be done and changes must be made to ensure a safe building for our students, to provide them the best education possible, and to maintain our accreditation.

Going It Alone

1. We will lose up to \$58 million in state funds.
2. Our school's accreditation could be lost.
3. Uncertainty will likely hurt enrollment, driving up per pupil costs to member communities.
4. We will still need to make more than \$100 million in repairs in a failing building.
5. We will need to make these repairs without state help.

Going It Alone

1. When major repairs reach a “tipping point,” they would automatically trigger the need to bring the entire building into compliance with building codes, fire safety codes, and handicap accessibility laws.
2. The process is no longer up to us. **One example:** In June 2011, a new Assistant Fire Chief in Lexington shut down the Minuteman “Trades Hall” until we made \$500,000 in repairs.



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Decision-Making Process

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Options for Local Funding Approval

- Two options are available:
 - 16 individual Town Meeting votes and an unknown number of debt override votes
 - A single, one-day District-wide ballot
- Both options are allowed by state law, Chapter 71, Sections 16(d) and 16(n)
- Minuteman has discussed both options.
- No decision has been made.
- We will meet with area selectmen on November 16 to discuss further.



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How Local Input Has Already Shaped the Process

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Impact of Local Input

- We're designing the ***smallest possible school*** that is financially feasible and educationally responsible.
- We secured the largest possible state reimbursement rate.
- We're planning for fewer out-of-district students.
- We secured a change in state regulations so that non-member communities will pay their fair share of the capital costs for a new school.



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Recap

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Project Highlights

- The MSBA-funded project creates a safe, modern facility designed to provide powerful career and technical education and robust academics
- It is the least expensive option
- It retains our regional accreditation

Act Now

- We have **one** shot: until June 30, 2016.
- We have a limited window to preserve **40%** MSBA funding.
- If we get out of the MSBA project pipeline, we might not get back in.
- Even if we do get back in, our base reimbursement rate would fall to **31%**.

If We Act Later

- Far more expensive project for the District
- Far inferior educational results
- Years of political chaos due to the need to bond for numerous individual projects
- Risk of escalating costs due to interest rate and/or construction cost increases
- Continued uncertainty for students and parents in the District



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Questions and Answers

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For More Information

- Visit the Minuteman website for more information on the building project:

www.minuteman.org



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Thank You

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