

Shaker Lane School Project Update

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Ongoing updates
available on the
project website:

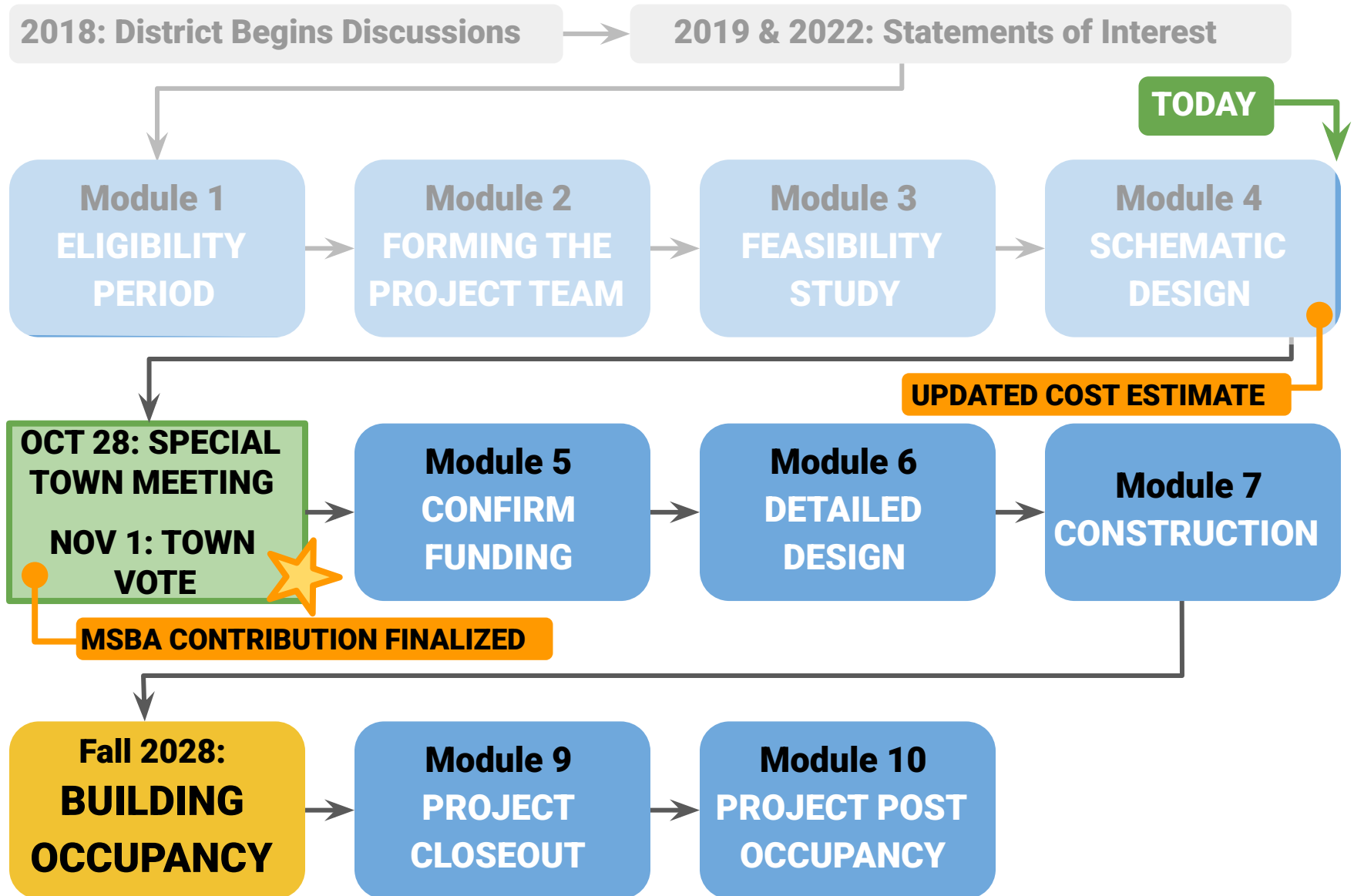
<http://bit.ly/47cAP4>



Littleton Public Schools
Town of Littleton, MA

July 29, 2025

What is the process for an MSBA project?



Schematic Design Updated Estimated Costs

	OCTOBER 2024	JANUARY 2025	JUNE 2025
Estimated Total Project Cost	\$104.2 M	\$104.2 M	\$98.1 M
Estimated MSBA Grant To be confirmed 8/25	\$29.5 M	\$29.5 M	\$29.4 M
Estimated Net Cost to Littleton	\$74.7 M	\$74.7 M	\$ 68.7 M*
Estimated First Year Tax Bill Bond term 20 years; estimated average interest rate 5%	\$1,850/1st year \$155/month	\$995/1st year \$83/month	\$859/1st year \$72/month

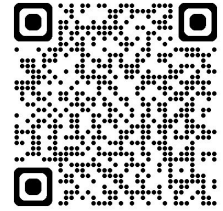
**Final cost to Littleton anticipated to be less; update will be provided end of August.*

Estimated Tax Impacts

Estimates based on Debt Exclusion Financial Plan voted by Select Board, Finance Committee and School Committee April 2025

Est Net Project Cost	\$68,700,000
Less Bond Premium	\$ 4,000,000
Less School Building Stabilization	<u>\$ 6,500,000</u>
Net Bond Amount	\$58,200,000

Calculate
your tax
impact



	Principal	Interest	Total Payment	DE Stab Usage	Est Split Tax Impact *
Year 1 (FY30)	\$2,910,000	\$2,648,100	\$5,558,100	\$1,164,000	\$859.59
Years 1-5	14,550,000	11,785,500	26,335,500	4,365,000	\$4,279.29 \$855.86/yr
Years 6-10	14,550,000	8,148,000	22,698,000	2,706,300	3,811.76 \$762.35/yr
Years 11-20	29,100,000	6,431,100	35,531,100	3,521,100	5,974.49 \$597.45/yr
Total	\$58,200,000	\$26,364,600	\$84,564,600	\$10,592,400	\$14,065.54 \$703.28/yr

**Total estimated tax impact from May 2025 ATM was \$16,443.54.
This is a \$2,378.00 reduction over 20 years or \$118.90 / year*

Estimated Tax Impacts

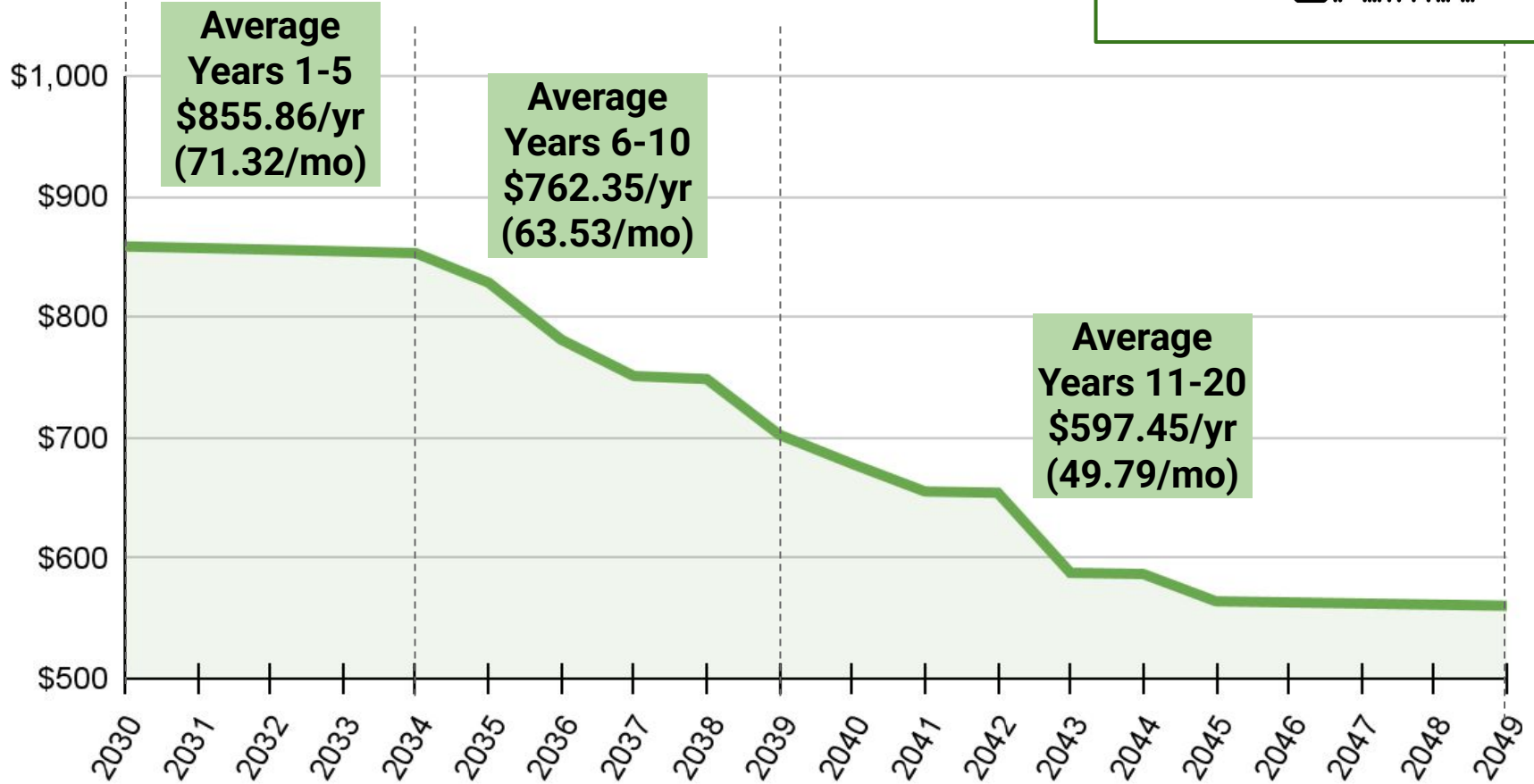
Estimates based on Debt Exclusion Financial Plan voted by Select Board, Finance Committee and School Committee April 2025

12.53% of total debt service is estimated to be paid from Debt Exclusion Stabilization.

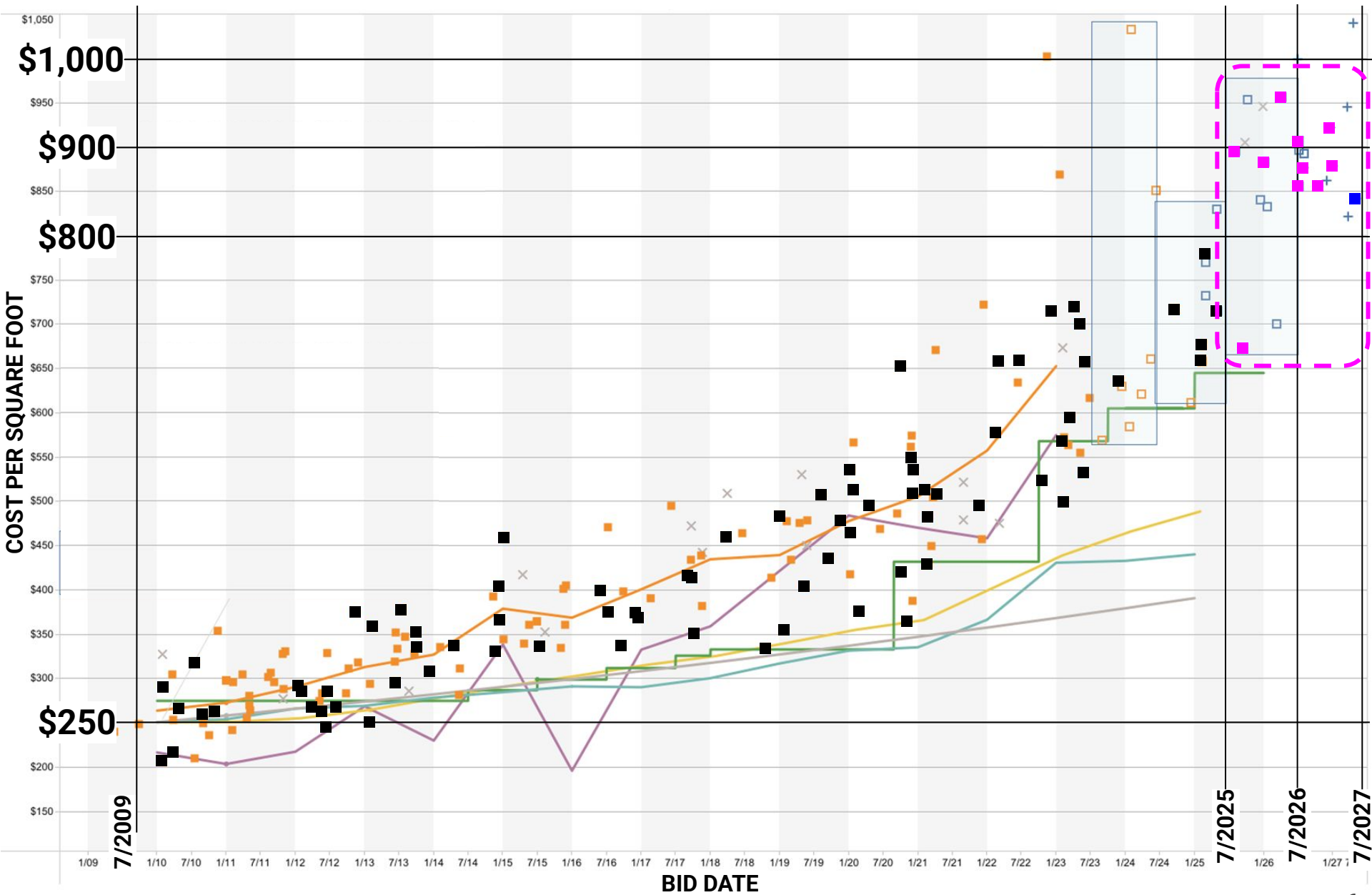
**Calculate
your tax
impact**



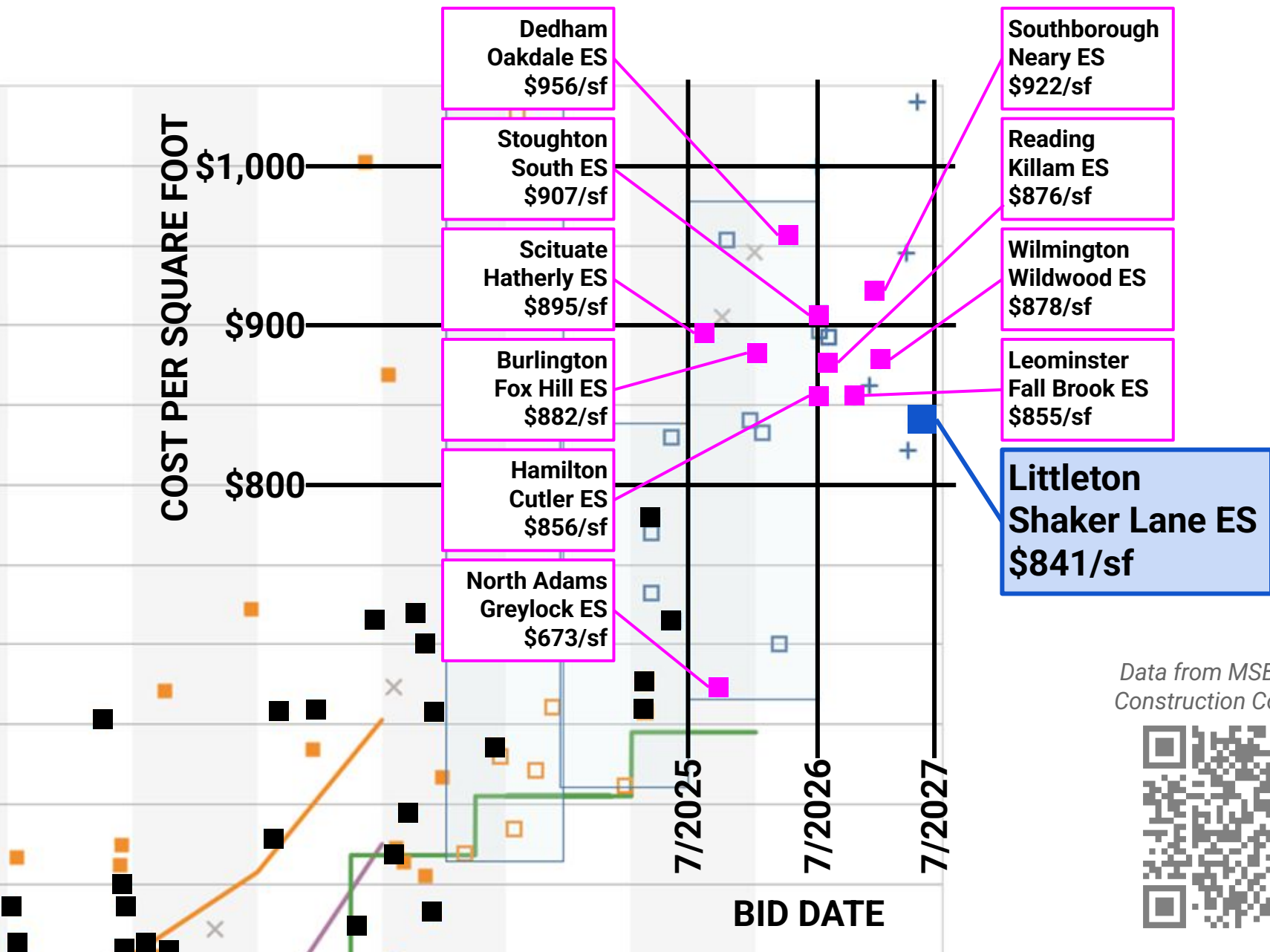
**Year 1
\$859.59
(\$71.63/mo)**



Historic MSBA School Cost Data



MSBA School Cost Data as of 10/2024 (to be updated 8/2025)

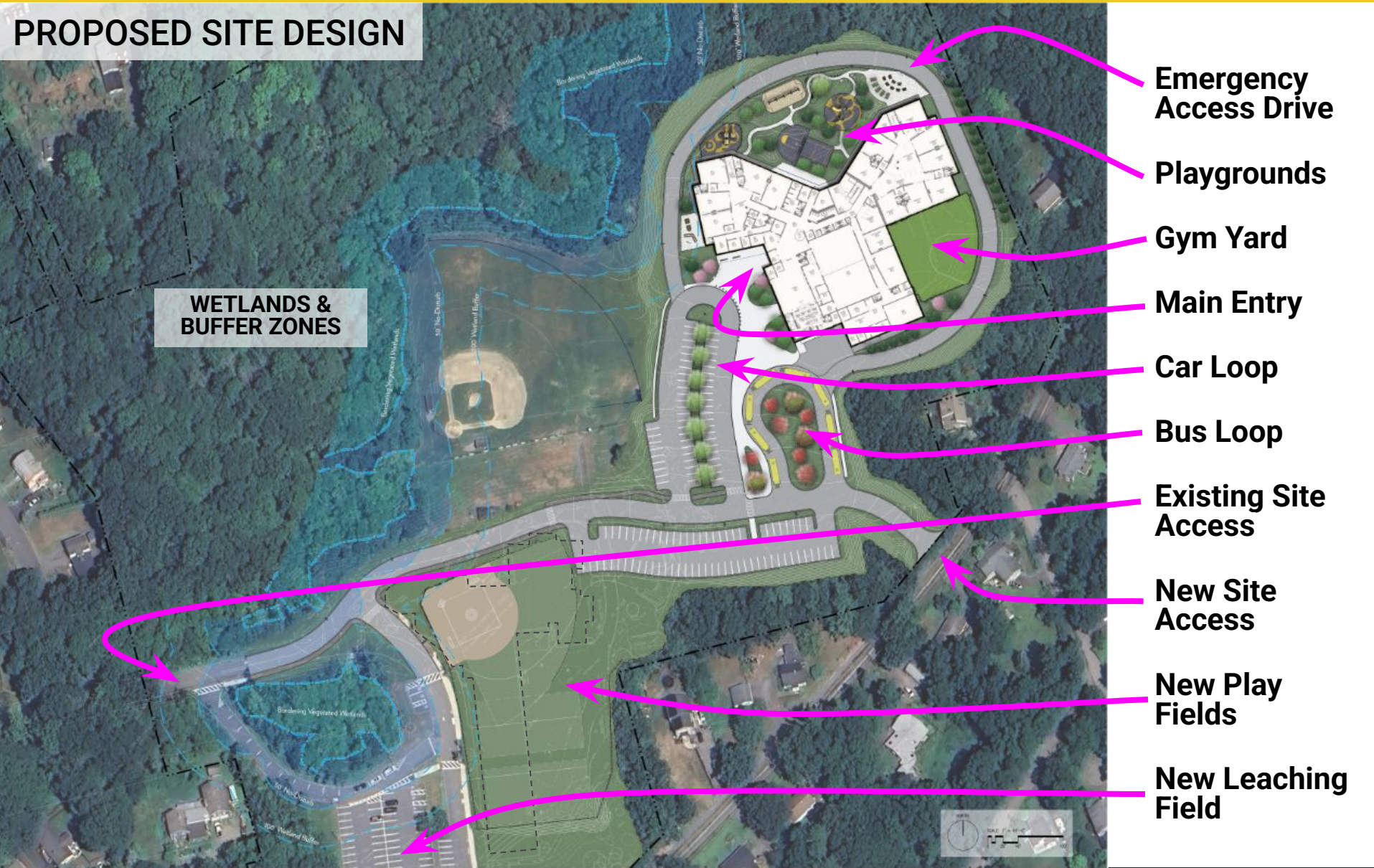


Data from MSBA School Construction Costs Chart



Design Update

PROPOSED SITE DESIGN

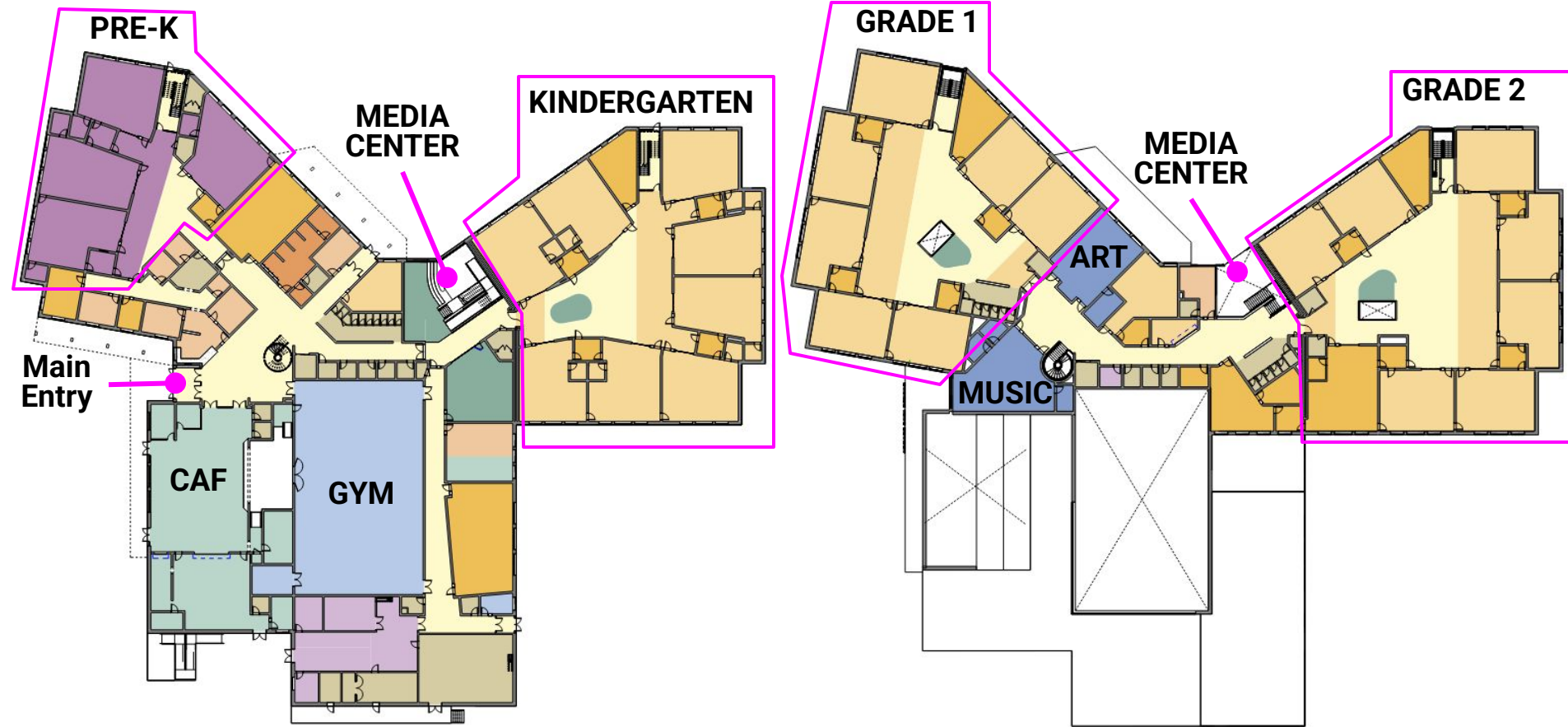


Design Update



Design Update

FLOOR PLANS



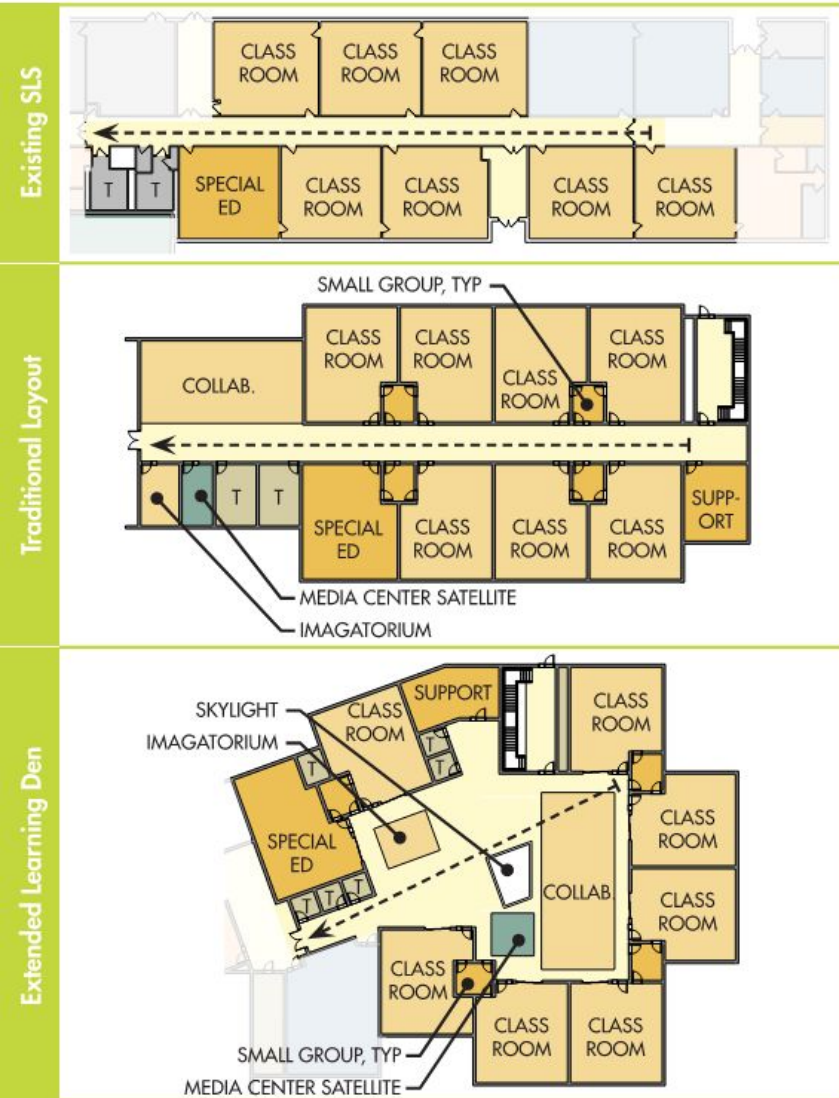
Design Update

COLLABORATIVE GRADE LEVEL NEIGHBORHOOD DENS



Design Update

How does an Extended Learning Den (modern school layout) compare to a traditional layout?
How does the existing Shaker Lane School measure up?



These two layouts contain the same spaces, and meet MSBA guidelines and the SLS educational program.

	Existing SLS Classrooms	Traditional Layout	Extended Learning Den
Classroom Size	~900-950sf each	1,000sf each (MSBA max)	900sf each (MSBA min)
Existing classrooms are sized well but there are not enough. New classrooms can be smaller but more functional if resources are shared in the Dens.			
Total Grade Level Neighborhood Size	10,470sf	16,360sf	16,600sf
Existing does not have true grade level neighborhoods, with collaboration or support spaces. Unified Arts programs such as Art, Music, and Imagatorium are not centrally located there is a lot of traffic in the narrow corridors.			
Travel Distance	175'	182'	116'
Lengthy travel reduces educational time.			
Multi-Functional Circulation	No	No	Yes
Multi-functional spaces are flexible and cost-effective.			
Equal access to collaboration space	No	No	Yes
Students receive better, faster support with small group rooms and support spaces.			
Natural light in circulation areas	No	No	Yes
Natural light improves educational outcomes.			
Distributed toilet rooms	No	No	Yes
The existing school does not have enough toilet rooms or hand-washing stations. Fast access to toilet rooms improves supervision and reduces travel time.			
Compact footprint	No	No	Yes
Maximizes value of every square foot.			

Design Update

PLAYGROUND & MEDIA CENTER



Shaker Lane School No Longer Meets Our Needs

Not enough classrooms



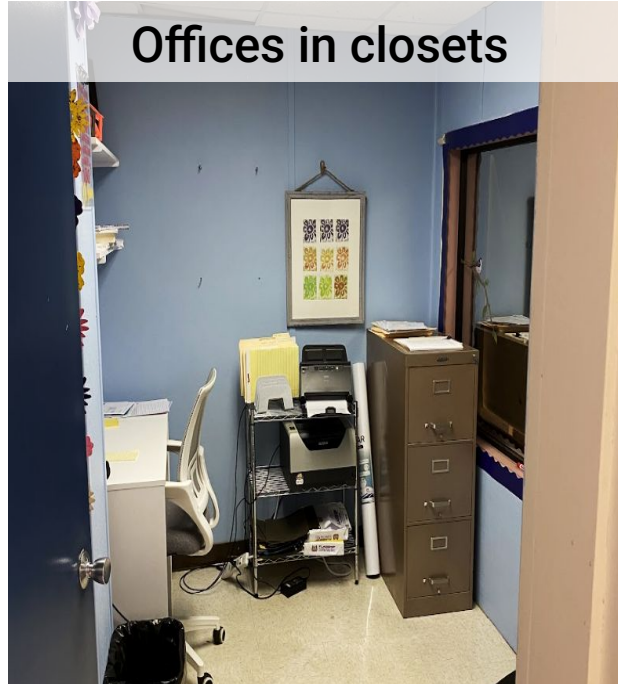
Inefficient & rushed lunch



Classrooms are too small



Offices in closets



Students learning in closets



Inadequate support spaces



A Few of the Issues with the Existing Shaker Lane School

FIRE PROTECTION

No sprinkler system

1-2 additional fire hydrants needed at rear of building

Existing fire alarm panel is old and obsolete, **failure would trigger major system upgrades**

MECHANICAL

Existing HVAC systems do not meet current energy code, **should be replaced entirely with any building code upgrades**

Library AC system and several classroom units use discontinued refrigerant R-22 (difficult and costly to acquire)

Heaters in entryways, corridors and toilet rooms, plus exhaust fans are **nearing or beyond expected useful life.**

ACCESSIBILITY

Existing lift controls not compliant with current code; **code upgrade would require elevator to replace the lift**

Interior stair handrail extensions not compliant

Bathrooms need substantial renovation to become compliant (not enough clearance at urinals, no privacy screens, not enough clearance at toilet flush handles, not enough clearance at sinks)

FOOD SERVICE

Kitchen is significantly undersized and poorly equipped

Dry storage and coolers are located in receiving room

Not enough food prep areas, sinks, or secure dry storage shelving to meet health code

Floor, wall, and ceiling finishes must be replaced with code compliant materials

ARCHITECTURAL

Most of roof needs repair or replacement

Envelope needs significant upgrades to meet energy code

Lead paint and asbestos-containing materials

ELECTRICAL

Existing system not sized for expansion or reuse in a major renovation, modulators would most likely trigger upgrade (can't use temp elec)

STRUCTURAL

Original 1959 structure does not meet current wind and seismic load requirements; **perimeter and interior masonry infill walls do not meet current code requirements**

Major alterations to exterior or interior unreinforced infill walls could trigger seismic upgrades

PLUMBING

Plumbing fixture counts do not meet current code

Majority of pipes are past useful life and are in poor condition; most pipes have high lead content. **All piping should be replaced (hot, cold, waste, vent)**

LANDSCAPE

Playground asphalt will need a full depth replacement

Athletic fields and play areas not accessible, some equipment is broken

Inadequate fencing at Pre-K and K-2 playgrounds

SECURITY

Main entry does not have secure vestibule configuration

Security cameras and door card readers are not adequate



What happens if the project doesn't pass Town Vote?

Littleton Loses MSBA Funding & Support

Shaker Lane would be out of the MSBA process. Littleton can re-apply BUT

- **The \$1,085,000 spent to date would have to be spent again without MSBA aid**
- Littleton must demonstrate community support (would another vote pass?)
- Getting back into the pipeline can delay the project by 7-10 years
 - **Costs escalate 4-8% every year**
- The ~\$27M MSBA grant would go to other communities

Shaker Lane School remains in operation despite its limitations and shortcomings

Littleton would be 100% responsible for repairing or replacing systems as they fail

- Many critical systems are at or beyond their expected lifespan
 - **It's not IF, but WHEN they fail**
- Emergency repairs impact students and teachers
- Additional costs to provide temporary learning spaces during significant repairs
- **When costs exceed \$2.73 M over the course of 5 years, a fire suppression system MUST be installed AND a full code upgrade will be required**

Shaker Lane School would remain ~2/3 the size it should be (according to MSBA guidelines).

This is not solvable with modular classrooms:

- 11 modular classrooms would be required to make up the space difference
- Each modular would eliminate outdoor play space
- Modulares are not suitable for very young students or students who require additional supports
- Modulares do not solve educational delivery issues (ex: kitchen, gym, library, student support spaces)
- Modulares have installation, operational and maintenance costs

The Cost of Doing Nothing

Estimated cost for continued use of existing building for 7-10 more years:

Building Code Upgrades

(this is NOT renovation)

- Would be required when repairs exceed \$2.73M over the course of 5 years
- Includes life safety, energy, accessibility, etc
- Does not solve space issues
- No MSBA grant funds

\$44M
(estimate from July 2024)

Modular Classrooms

- 11 modular classrooms, lose most play space
- Utility connection costs
- Does not solve educational delivery issues
- No MSBA grant funds

\$6M

ESTIMATED TOTAL COSTS

\$50+ M*

**Requires a debt exclusion override for 10 years
\$50M cost less premium \$3M less Stab \$6.5M =
Bond Issued for \$40.5 million*

1st year tax impact \$1,187.03

1st year tax impact \$859

**(versus
~\$68.7M for a
new school)**



Next Steps

- **SLS Tours & Info Sessions:**

Thursday, August 14

Tuesday, October 21

6:30pm: Tour

7:15pm: Info Session

- **Community Forum:**
August & September TBD

Mark your calendar

October 28 Special Town Meeting

November 1 Debt Exclusion Vote



Please visit the project website:

- Make your voice heard
- Learn more about the project
- Ongoing updates

<http://bit.ly/47cAP4>



bitly



Littleton Public Schools
Town of Littleton, MA

Next: Q&A

July 29, 2025
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