

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SPACE FEASIBILITY UTILIZATION
STUDY

BOARD OF EDUCATION – OCTOBER 22, 2018

1

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS SPACE UTILIZATION STUDY



10-YEAR FACILITIES & UTILIZATION STUDY (PHASE 1 STUDY)

- The study was commissioned by the Weston Board of Education to determine and assess the current conditions of **all school facilities**.
- Draft report was issued on November 3, 2017.
- The 10-Year Facilities & Utilization Study presented:
 1. Analysis on long-term needs for each facility and building on the Weston Public School campus (i.e., HES, WIS, WMS, WHS, Central Office, Annex, Bus Depot).
 2. Analysis of campus and building facility usage based on current and anticipated curricular and co-curricular goals, programs and needs.
 3. Short and long-term enrollment projections incorporating comprehensive modeling of demographic, economic and housing trends.
 4. 10-Year capital recommendations ranked in order of importance to maintain and upkeep the existing facilities.
 5. Three conceptual options to address the Middle School facility and its educational needs over the next 10 years.
 6. Conceptual options to balance the dual needs for improved district administration offices and ample teaching and learning spaces in the schools.

SPACE UTILIZATION FEASIBILITY STUDY (PHASE 2 STUDY)

- Phase 1 of the Facility & Utilization Study operates with the assumption that the current number and arrangement of campus facilities and buildings remain the same. This is a well-reasoned assumption based on district goals, programs and needs, as well as current and anticipated enrollment.
- However, given the extensive, multi-year financial investments associated with any major capital work, the Facilities Committee wants to examine a full range of scenarios as to the number and arrangement of campus facilities and buildings.
- **The Facilities Committee recommends a Phase 2 study to examine whether the district's goals, programs and needs (curricular and co-curricular) can occur within the confines of three schools.** The study would review the optimal use of current buildings and square footage to determine what would be required to offer a robust and cutting-edge curricular and co-curricular program in three facilities. The study would analyze the requirements presented by current and anticipated enrollment, both in terms of student counts and diverse learning and developmental needs.
- Two reconfiguration scenarios would be examined to provide a full range of options for building usage:
 - Scenario 1—WMS Reallocation: Reconfigure the campus so that the square footage of Weston Middle School is reallocated to WHS, WIS and HES
 - Scenario 2—HES Reallocation: Reconfigure the campus so that the square footage of Hurlbutt is reallocated to WHS, WIS and WMS

SPACE UTILIZATION FEASIBILITY STUDY (PHASE 2 STUDY)

Questions to Examine in the Phase 2 Study:

1. What are the curricular and co-curricular elements that will need to be moved and/or retained with either Scenario 1 or 2?
 - Scenario 1: What elements from WMS must be moved or retained?
 - Scenario 2: What elements from HES must be moved or retained?
2. For Scenario 1, to what extent are WHS, WIS and HES readily expandable to absorb the WMS square footage and necessary curricular and co-curricular elements?
3. For Scenario 2, to what extent are WHS, WMS and WIS expandable to absorb the HES square footage and necessary curricular and co-curricular elements?
4. For Scenario 2, is it possible to expand WIS to allow for a Pre-K to 5 configuration in one facility?

SPACE UTILIZATION FEASIBILITY STUDY (PHASE 2 STUDY)

Questions to Examine in the Phase 2 Study (Continued):

5. For either scenario, what is the impact of having schools with enrollment ranging from a minimum of 600 to as much as 925? Schools of this size for the elementary and middle school grades would be uncommonly large relative to similar districts.
6. For either scenario, changing the grade configuration may become a necessity. What is the curricular and co-curricular effect of changing the grade configuration amongst buildings?
7. What is the current space being used for now, given that current enrollment is smaller than when the schools were built? What is the allocation of space across all curricular and co-curricular needs, including special education, music, art, world language, STEM?
8. What are the anticipated PPS/Special Education needs? How can space be most effectively used to meet the needs of PPS/Special Education?

NEXT STEPS

If the BOE approves moving forward with the Phase 2 study, several steps would commence.

1. Form a Strategic Facilities Planning Committee:
 - a) Superintendent
 - b) Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction
 - c) Assistant Superintendent of PPS
 - d) Director of Finance and Operations
 - e) Director of Facilities and Security
 - f) Principals
 - g) BOE Facility Committee Representative
 - h) PTO Representative
2. Solicit input from the First Selectman, who may then solicit feedback from his designees on what questions they would like to see addressed in the Phase 2 study.
3. Solicit input from the Chairman of Board of Finance, who may then solicit feedback from his designees on what questions they would like to see addressed in the Phase 2 study.
4. The Strategic Facilities Planning Committee would develop and implement a work plan to address the critical inquiry and research questions, including those listed in this presentation (Slides #5-6) and those raised by the BOE, First Selectman (or designee) and Chairman of the Board of Finance (or designee).

NEXT STEPS

5. The Strategic Facilities Planning Committee would create a draft proposal on space reconfiguration options for converting the district from a four school to three school campus. Draft proposal would include:
 - A. Curricular and co-curricular elements which would need to be relocated and the cost.
 - B. Possible grade reconfiguration options to accommodate space reconfiguration and its possible educational impact.
 - C. Cost estimates for space reconfiguration in three buildings.
6. The Strategic Facilities Planning Committee would evaluate the most viable options from the Phase 1 and Phase 2 studies and present summary analysis to the Facilities Committee of the Board of Education.
7. Following Facility Committee review and deliberation, the Strategic Facilities Planning Committee would create, with the assistance of a consultant, Educational Specifications (ED Specs) for the recommended option to be reviewed and potentially adopted by the Board of Education.
8. Present recommended option and Educational Specifications to Public, Board of Selectman and Board of Finance for additional input.