

Information About the Stoneham High School Feasibility Study



The Stoneham School Building Committee (SSBC) is comprised of municipal employees from the School and Town departments, elected representatives from the Select Board, School Committee and Finance and Advisory Board and citizens with a variety of talents and skills suited to the work of bringing a 21st century high school to the students and community of Stoneham. Since being appointed in early 2019, the SSBC has gained input and guidance from Town Boards, community members, business leaders,

neighbors, teachers and students in developing the best long term solution for Stoneham High School, a new state of the art facility located on the site of the existing school.

Features and benefits of the project include:

- Appropriately sized classrooms
- SPED (RISE and STRIDE) Spaces
- Engineering, Fabrication and Technology Labs

- Music and Art Spaces
- Optimized building orientation for daylighting/Zero Net Energy design
- Optimized orientation of ALL athletic fields and upgraded facilities
- Upgraded roadways and parking and improved traffic on Franklin Street
- Pedestrian connection from community to expeditionary trail
- District Offices and Pre-K program



UPCOMING SSBC MEETINGS

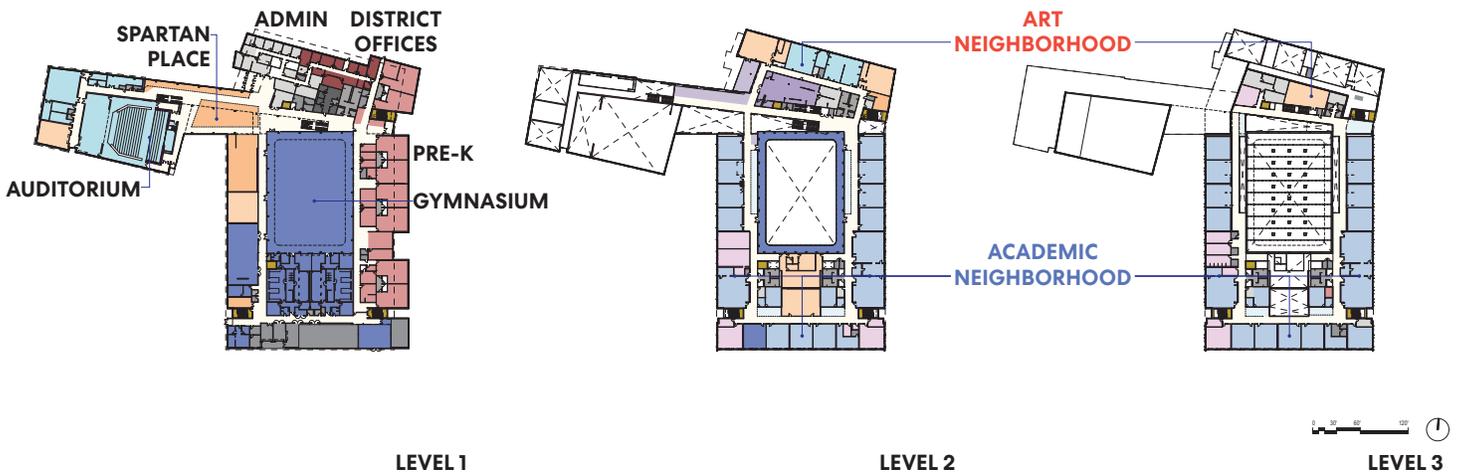
- August 2, 2021
- August 23, 2021
- September 13, 2021
- September 27, 2021

UPCOMING MILESTONES

- August 25, 2021 – MSBA Board meeting vote to approve project
- September 1, 2021 – Community Forum No. 8
- September 20, 2021 – Community Forum No. 9
- October 4, 2021 – Town Meeting
- November 2, 2021 – Ballot Vote



FLOOR PLANS



1. WHY ARE WE PERFORMING A FEASIBILITY STUDY?

The 52-year-old Stoneham High School, originally constructed as a Junior High School, has served the community well. The school has reached a point that it no longer meets today’s building codes, has inefficient and inoperable building systems and does not support the educational curriculum. The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) visited the school and agrees. The MSBA process is rigorous and transparent, and with the approval of the MSBA, the state will provide a grant to support the cost of the project.

2. WHAT IS THE PROJECT COST?

The total project cost is \$189.6 million and the MSBA will reimburse the Town approximately \$49.9 million. The estimated project cost to Stoneham is \$139.7 million.

For a 30-year fixed bond estimated at 3.0%, the average annual tax impact will be approximately \$1.43 per \$1,000 of assessed residential value. On the average home assessed at \$577,700, the estimated tax increase is an average of \$826 per year. Reimbursement amount subject to MSBA approval. Finance terms and tax impact estimated.

3. WHAT DOES ZERO NET ENERGY MEAN AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO STONEHAM?

Zero Net Energy (ZNE) means a building produces as much clean, renewable energy on the building and surrounding grounds in a given year as it uses from the electric company. So overall at the end of the one-year period, it has zeroed out the energy it used from the utility by producing an equal amount of clean renewable energy locally. This is important to Stoneham as the high school will be the single largest energy use building in Town and being ZNE will reduce Town costs over the decades to come.

4. WILL FRANKLIN STREET TRAFFIC BE AFFECTED?

The project includes mitigation measures to improve the traffic along Franklin Street, especially during morning school arrivals. The roadways and parking in each design option have been expanded and redesigned to improve traffic flow and provide more queuing space for cars on site and off of Franklin Street. Additionally, a new traffic signal is being planned for the Stevens Street and Franklin Street intersection, synchronized with the new signal at the school entrance to improve traffic circulation.

5. IF THE PROJECT IS APPROVED, WHAT IS THE SCHEDULE?

The project moves into the detailed design phases, where the Architect develops the design and construction plans. Construction would start in summer 2022 with the new school opening in the summer of 2024. The demolition of the existing school will then occur, followed by the construction of the playfields in early 2025.

6. HOW CAN I KEEP INFORMED OF THE HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT?

You can visit www.stoneham-ma.gov/hsbc to find a complete list of Committee members, contact information and all published documentation.

