

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Town of Stoneham Receives Vote of Approval from the Massachusetts School Building Authority

Stoneham, MA - The Stoneham School Building Committee is excited to announce that the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Board of Directors, at the August 25, 2021, meeting, voted to approve the new Stoneham High School project and an estimated grant of \$49.0 million to help fund the project. This approval from the MSBA brings the town one step closer to replacing the existing high school with a brand-new facility equipped to support Stoneham's 21st century educational curriculum.

For the past two years, the town and MSBA have been working on a feasibility study to address the conditions of the High School. The study has concluded that the most cost-effective, sustainable and educationally-appropriate solution is a new Stoneham High School. The proposed new building will be sited on the current Franklin Street property in the southeast corner, on what is currently a practice field. The building design is comprised of two wings, connected by Spartan Place on the first floor and a media bridge on the second floor. The east side of the building will house the District Offices, the High School offices, the Pre-Kindergarten Program, academic classrooms on the second and third floors, a gymnasium with an elevated walking track, and the food service and cafeteria area with access to Spartan Plaza, an outdoor seating and potential classroom space. The west side of the building will be two stories with a state-of-the-art Auditorium with media spaces, music and choral class spaces and maker spaces.

The current design also includes an amphitheater for outdoor school and community cultural events, community walking paths around the perimeter of the property, re-aligned athletic fields with turf or natural grass and tennis courts all of which will also be accessible to town leagues.

The total project cost is \$189.6 million and the MSBA will reimburse the Town approximately \$49.0 million. The estimated cost to Stoneham is \$140.6 million. The Town will be asked to approve the project funding at the Fall Town Meeting on October 4, 2021, and to approve a Debt exclusion vote on November 2, 2021.

Over the coming weeks, members of the SSBC will be available at various public meetings to share information about the proposed building and answer questions, including Back to School

nights, SHS Football games, the Stoneham CDC Quarterly meeting, as well as Town Day, September 18 and Community Forums on September 1st and 20th .

Want to see what a proposed new High School would look like? Using this link - <https://bit.ly/2Wby1Eb> - to take a virtual tour of the proposed building on Stoneham TV's website.

SHS Principal Bryan Lombardi will also be offering tours of the current high school in the coming weeks. No registration is required and tours will be held on the following dates: Fridays September 17, September 24 and October 1 promptly at 5:00 pm; and Wednesday, September 29 at 5:30 p.m.

For more detailed information about the project visit <https://www.stoneham-ma.gov/hsbc> .