

Westborough Public Schools

Annual Town Meeting
March 2017
Article 42



Fales School Upgrade Project

Article 42 Motion:

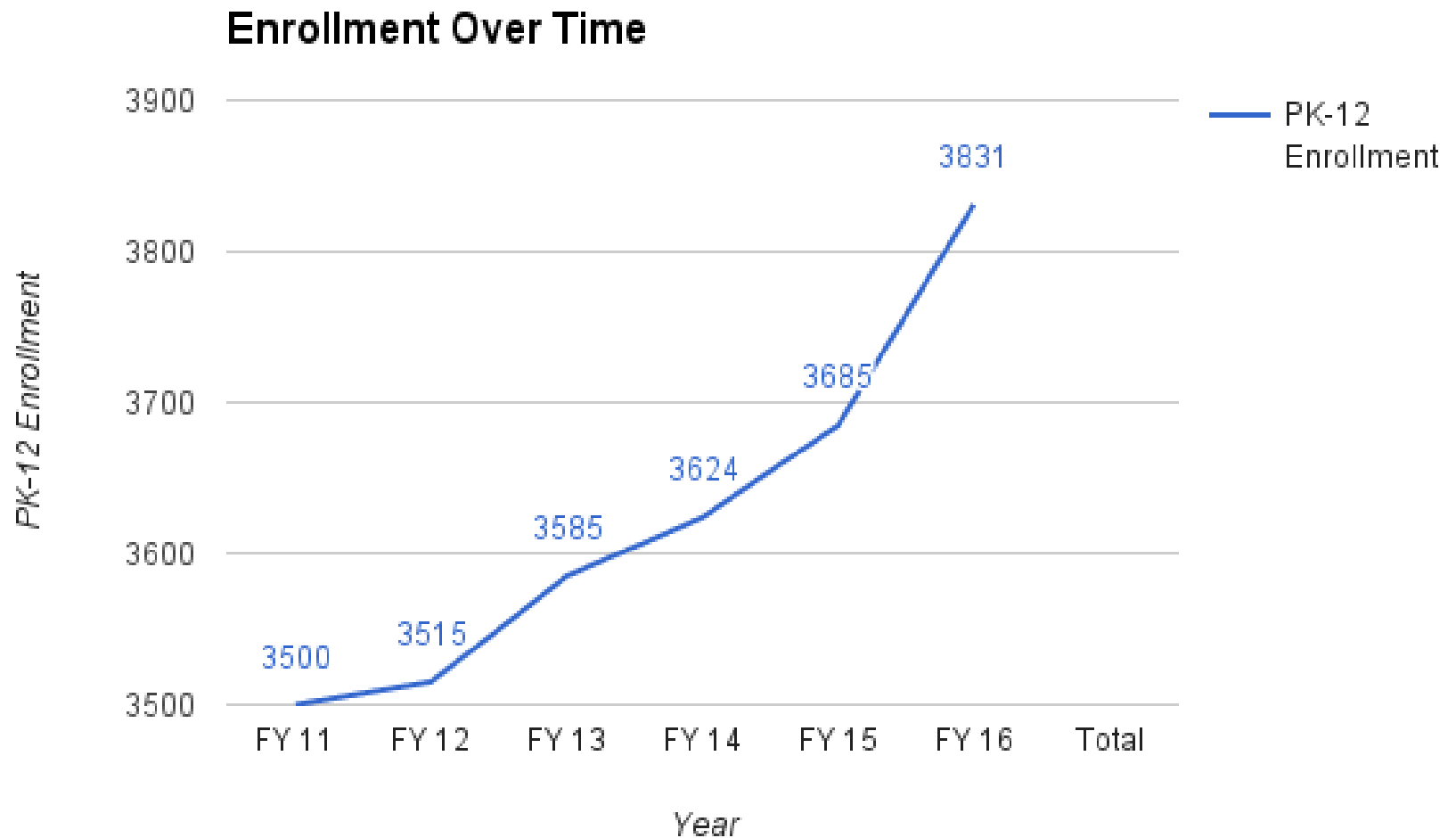
I move that the Town appropriate the amount of Five Hundred Thousand (\$500,000) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs of the Annie E. Fales Elementary School Feasibility Study for the Annie E. Fales Elementary School located at 50 Eli Whitney Street, Westborough, Massachusetts, located on Assessor's parcel 9-88-0, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, and for which the Town of Westborough may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of the PreK-3 School Building Committee. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer/Collector, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The Town acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any costs the Town incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town, and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Feasibility Study Agreement that may be executed between the Town and the MSBA.

Enrollment and Available Building Space

Joint Committee Enrollment Report

- ❖ HMFH and NESCEC study
 - ❖ 10 Year projects
 - ❖ Town building projections
- ❖ Provided data and options to meet enrollment growth
- ❖ Interacts with data on building maintenance planning – maximize saving options

Enrollment Increase of 331 (9.5%) Since FY 11



+20

FALES UPGRADE

Currently 356

ANNIE E. FALES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	SCHOOL YEAR	PK	K	1	2	3	TOTAL
HISTORY	2009-10		66	74	63	79	282
	2010-11		63	73	76	65	277
	2011-12		75	64	75	79	293
LARGEST ENROLLMENT	2012-13		54	82	64	82	282
	2013-14		67	66	84	73	290
	2014-15		77	74	75	96	322
COMPOSITE FINAL PROJECTION	2015-16		77	81	80	84	322
	2016-17		81	84	86	85	336
	2017-18		69	89	89	91	338
	2018-19		73	75	94	95	336
	2019-20		67	80	79	100	326
	2020-21		70	74	84	84	312
	2021-22		72	77	78	89	316
	2022-23		70	79	82	83	313
	2023-24		70	77	83	87	317
	2024-25		70	77	81	88	317

10 Year Projection

Projected Percentage Changes

Year	K-12	Diff.	%
2014-15	3525	0	0.0%
2015-16	3585	60	1.7%
2016-17	3678	93	2.6%
2017-18	3744	66	1.8%
2018-19	3800	56	1.5%
2019-20	3824	24	0.6%
2020-21	3870	46	1.2%
2021-22	3885	15	0.4%
2022-23	3892	7	0.2%
2023-24	3953	61	1.6%
2024-25	3961	8	0.2%
Change		436	12.4%

Working Collaboratively

- Continually updating enrollment.
- Percentages tracking well
 - Location of impact varies
- HMFH Report on Fales Outlines:
 - Building is vastly undersized
 - Systems are over 50ys.
 - ADA and Space issues

FALES UPGRADE

- Fales upgrade is required to continue to meet district standards and educational performance
- Participation by the Massachusetts school building authority (MSBA) is required to qualify for state matching funds
- The MSBA procedures are explicit and must be adhered to in order to receive state funds

FALES UPGRADE

The town created the Prek-3 School Building Committee at the October 2015 town meeting

The Prek-3 Building Committee has been executing the required process for Westborough to become qualified for state funding

The Prek-3 Committee helped the school district file its statement of interest (SOI) with the MSBA in April of 2016. This document sets out the level of need and the deficiencies of the school, and our plan for its up grade.

FALES UPGRADE

WHAT IS THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY AND WHAT DO THEY DO:

- The MSBA is the Massachusetts School Building Authority. They are a quasi-independent government authority created in 2004 to replace the former school building assistance program administered by the Department of Education (now the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education). We work with local communities to create affordable, sustainable, and energy efficient schools across Massachusetts.

FALES UPGRADE

- As the first item in the process for state school project funding, MSBA visited the school in November 2016 to view the school conditions and space needs.
- Upon review of all 85 state wide requests for participation in the feasibility stage of the project, MSBA **only** selected 17 schools to continue, Westborough received its invitation from the MSBA board of directors to participate on March 1, 2017.

FALES UPGRADE

● WHAT MUST WE DO TO MAINTAIN OUR ELIGIBILITY FOR MSBA PARTICIPATION FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

- As a town, the Chairman of the BOS, Superintendent of Schools and School Committee Chairman must sign a document within **30 days** that it agrees to honor each of 37 legal and program criteria to accomplish the goal of providing the required information to the MSBA in support of the school upgrade
- The Town must form a school building committee with in **60 days** of the notice to participate, the PreK-3 Building Committee was formed by Town Meeting 11/16.

FALES UPGRADE

- Provide an enrollment projection and Educational Profile with in **90 Days** of the MSBA invitation. In our case we need to update our current enrollment projections, and validate the current population in our Prek-3 schools of Armstrong, Hastings and Fales.
- File with the MSBA within 180 days our Fales School Maintenance documents and School Enrollment figures.
- Receive authorization from the Town Meeting the funds to pursue the MSBA Feasibility study within 270 days.

FALES UPGRADE

- As noted in earlier slides we have been diligently pursuing the course to receive state funding support for the Fales Upgrade since 2015.
- We were told by MSBA staff that our project was chosen over others because we are aggressively completing the requirements set out by MSBA to refunds and to use those funds now.
- We are aware that others in the list of 85 applicants are trying to receive funding for new high schools in two school districts which will require \$250,000,000 each. We are very concerned that when those schools achieve the end of their feasibility study, state support for other programs such as ours would not be eligible since no funds would be available.

FALES UPGRADE

- As you have seen in the above data, the Prek-3 School Building Committee is poised to complete the requirements of the initial compliance certification (this phase) much sooner than the 270 days allowed
- A vote for these feasibility funds at this town meeting puts Westborough on the fast track to receive MSBA participation in the Fales upgrade project before the other school districts requiring large fund commitments will be in place
- The sooner we commit to Fales feasibility project, the sooner we can relieve the over crowding in Fales school.

FALES UPGRADE

- Please support the Prek-3 School Building Committee to provide the process needed to deal with Fales overcrowding with your affirmative vote on this article.

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