

Westborough Public Schools

Educating a growing and vibrant community

Fall Town Meeting 2015

A District Grounded in its Values



Developing Lifelong Learners



WPS Performing well and working to meet expectations

- Town ranked: 14th “best place to live” in the United States
 - (*Money Magazine*, 2015)
- WPS ranked 9th “best school system” in MA
 - (*Boston Magazine*, 2015)
- WPS ranked top community for Music Education
 - (National Assoc. of Music Merchants: 2015)
- Westborough High School ranked 35th in the United States
 - (*Newsweek*, 2014)
- Westborough High School scored 10th best on ELA MCAS
 - (*Boston Globe*, 2015)

Other Indicators of Success

Participation:

- 75% participation in Fine Arts at Middle School and High School
- 40% of MS & HS students participate in athletics during any given sports season
- Robust participation clubs and community service

Academic Excellence:

- 20 Merit Scholars in 2015
 - 4 Finalists
 - 1 Merit Scholar winner
- 94% enroll in 4-year colleges
- State and National MICCA recognition in music

Working collaboratively Planning for now and our future:

❖ District wide Strategic Planning:

- PK-12 faculty
- Parents
- WPS Leadership Team

❖ Completed district wide capital assessment of 6 schools/property

- Will coordinate with town Capital Committee

❖ Joint Committee to study: “School Enrollment and School Space Capacity”

❖ School Committee:

- Amber Bock: Superintendent
- Jody Hensley: SC
- Daniel Mayer: Assistant Superintendent

❖ Board of Selectmen:

- Jim Malloy: Town Manager
- George Barrette & Tim Dodd: BOS

❖ Planning Board:

- Jim Robbins: Town Planner
- Charles Diamond: PB

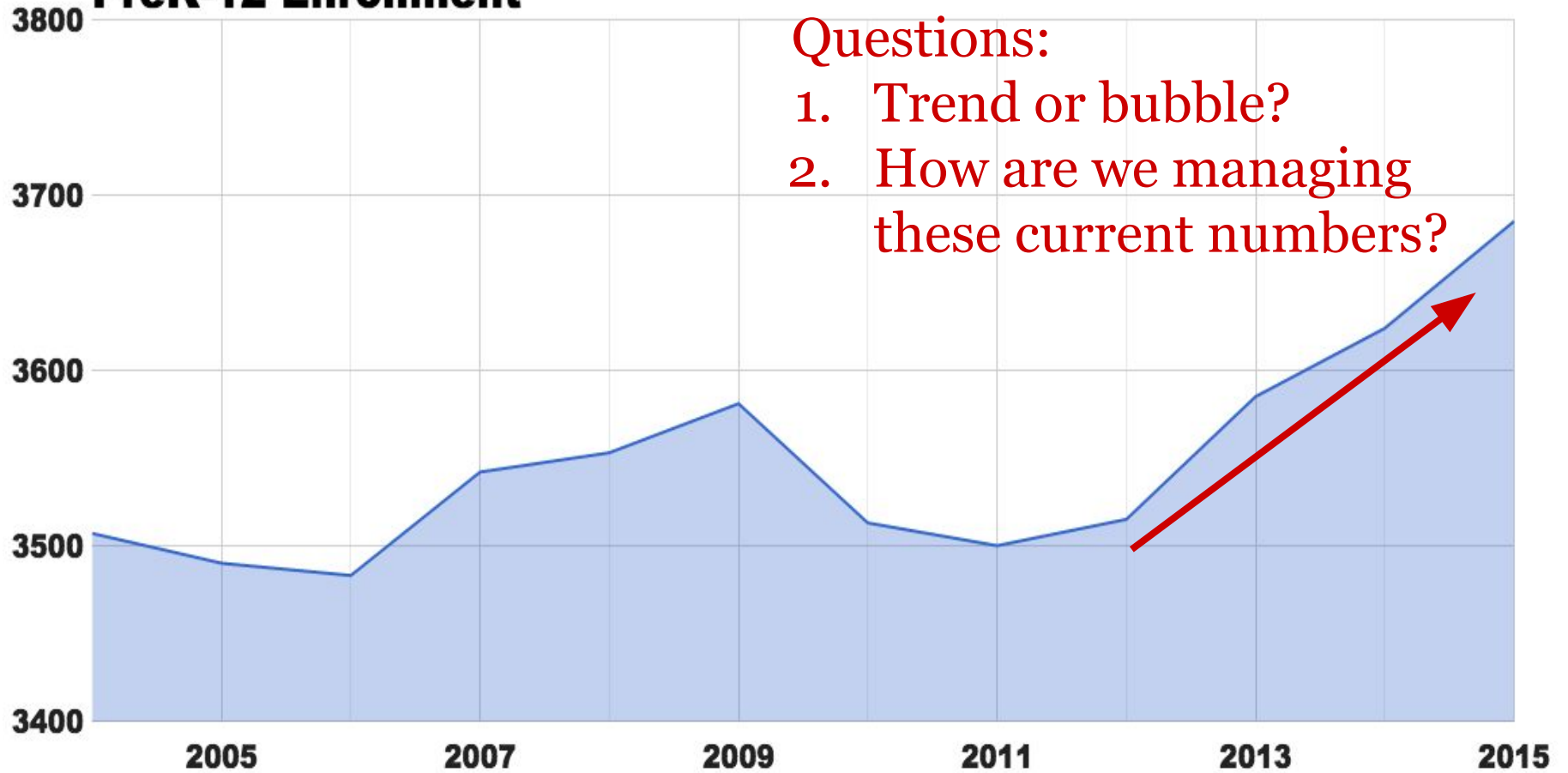
❖ AFC

- Gary Wells: Chair of AFC

Reason for Conducting Study

- Sharp uptick in enrollment between the fall of 2011 and the fall of 2015 (net increase of 180 students)
- Sharp uptick in Westborough building permits between 2012 and 2014 (156 single-family units and 64 multi-family units)

PreK-12 Enrollment



Questions:

1. Trend or bubble?
2. How are we managing these current numbers?

Study Examines:

- Changes in the size and age of Westborough population
- Number of dwelling units and preK-12
- Westborough
- Projecting number of students that is in process and anticipated

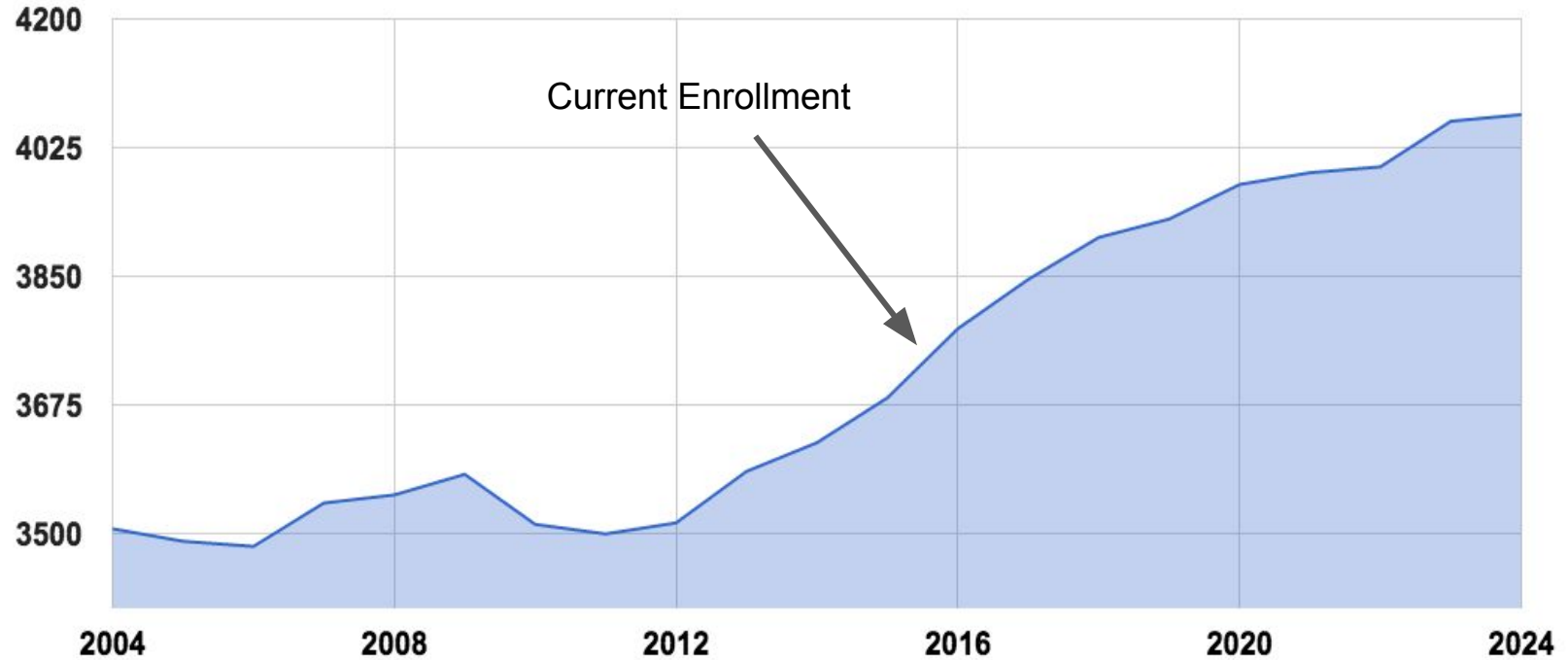
Develop Composite 10 Year Growth Projection

Over 6 months the Joint Committee worked with:
Hired Firm: HMFH Architects and Demographic Specialists

Enrollment History and Projections:

- Average student enrollment from 2004 through 2011 was 3,521
- Since 2011, added 180 students. That's equivalent of 1/2 the population of the Armstrong School.
- Projection: between 2014 and 2024 we will add 446 students (a 12.3% increase).
- Assuming limited new building growth, enrollment levels off at about 4,000 students

Historical and Projected Grade PreK-12 Enrollment



Impact Growth Summary

- ❖ Recent enrollment increases have created space problems that require immediate attention
 - We are in a bubble that peaks 2017
- ❖ In addition, projected additional enrollment growth will also require our attention
 - We will be 12.3% larger long term

Capacity: How are the 6 schools?

- Currently as of 2015-2016 enrollment
 - WHS is comfortable and can manage growth
 - Gibbons is being repaired and can meet growth
 - Mill Pond can meet capacity with space management
- 3 K-3 schools at or over capacity
 - Armstrong is within capacity
 - Hasting is at capacity
 - Fales is over capacity

Capacity Continued...

- Long Term issues:
 - Armstrong has 4 modulators - 15 years past life span and beyond repair
 - Hastings has 2 modulators - 15 years past life span and beyond repair
 - Fales has multiple challenges - beyond its time and exceptionally undersized by all requirements of current standards - over capacity
 - Shared space and creative well managed planning has sustained educational experience

Westborough's Needs as a Community

- Current enrollment and anticipated growth will require space; caring for building upkeep is essential as well
- Good news: Report indicates we can maintain our 6 school footprint to meet our needs
 - less infrastructure cost (principal, staffing, cafe, services, etc)
 - also manages repairs and replacement of dated modulars in fiscally responsible way
- Adding space at the existing 3 PK-3 schools will meet long term growth and relieve current existing space issues

- Proposing ideas and a strategic timeline
 - Organizing potential ideas from the report
 - 1st - Create flexible use space at Hastings and then future preschool space after 2018 (we are mandated by state law to provide preschool)
 - 2nd - Armstrong wing to replace modulars
 - 3rd - Fales action to repair and add space
 - Adding space for immediate crisis numbers by 2017-18 and long term needs of 12.3% larger
- Forming a PreK-3 Building Committee

Responsive Planning

WPS part of a thriving community

- Working collaboratively
- Planning effectively
- Maintaining excellence
- Working with the town to phase debt load
- Meeting the future

