

WBOE Ad Hoc Enrollment, Instructional Needs, and Space Planning Committee: Report & Recommendations

Enrollment projections, programmatic and instructional needs, and staffing configurations pose challenges to the current size of Beecher Road School. Recognizing our increasing enrollment and the increased instructional needs of our educators and students, the WBOE formed this Ad Hoc committee in January of 2023 to gather information regarding the implications of increasing enrollment and student needs on the current physical space of Beecher Road School.

Charge: The committee will review and address the physical, administrative, and instructional implications of increasing enrollment and student needs on the current physical space of Beecher Road School.

Members: Vonda Tencza, Superintendent, Co-Chair; Maria Madonick, Co-Chair; Lynn Piasyck, Chair WBOE, Ex Officio; Jeff Hughes, WBOE; Brooke Hopkins, WBOE; Analisa Sherman, Principal; Donna Coonan, Director of Business & Operations; Joe Crisco, Board of Selectmen; Susan Jacobs, Board of Finance; Katie McCollom, Teacher Representative; Alli Grabowski, Teacher Representative; Vito Esparo, Director of Facilities; Patti McKeon, Woodbridge Community Representative.

The committee met five times between March and June 2023. The committee identified several working groups to explore: current space needs, current and projected enrollment, impact of legislation on preschool enrollment, shared services with BOWA districts, engagement with town leadership to explore existing spaces suitable for school expansion, repurposing of existing spaces within Beecher Road School, considerations of expanding physical space, and our goals and vision for adding value to both our school district and Woodbridge community.

To explore these working groups, the committee reviewed the following data:

- June 2022 Enrollment projections through 2031 (Peter M. Prowda, PhD)
- Current enrollment
- WBOE Classroom size guidelines
- Current Capital Projects: solar initiative, roof repair, Woodbridge Town Building Committee reports
- BOWA Portrait of a Graduate
- Beecher Road School Space Usage Report
- Beecher Road School Space Usage & Challenges Presentation (Analisa Sherman)
- Review of Region 20 formation process; Review of the Temporary Regional School Study Committee report and presentation
- *Equity, Safety, and Health* (Dr. Michael Deitter): review of presentation from Bristol school system on their process of expanding space using existing town buildings
- Review of the process of school expansion in Guilford, CT starting with review of an Education Specification study.
- Goals and vision formation for our district and town

After review and discussion of the information gathered, the committee makes the following recommendations:

1. Continue formal discussions with BOWA districts to explore shared services including grade level organization.
2. Recommend the WBOE hire a consultant for a feasibility study, specifically an Education Specification Study, to explore:
 - a. Repurposing current spaces within Beecher Road School
 - b. Evaluation of other spaces in town that could be repurposed for educational instruction.
 - c. Comprehensive evaluation of space utilization and instructional needs and our options for addressing those needs.