

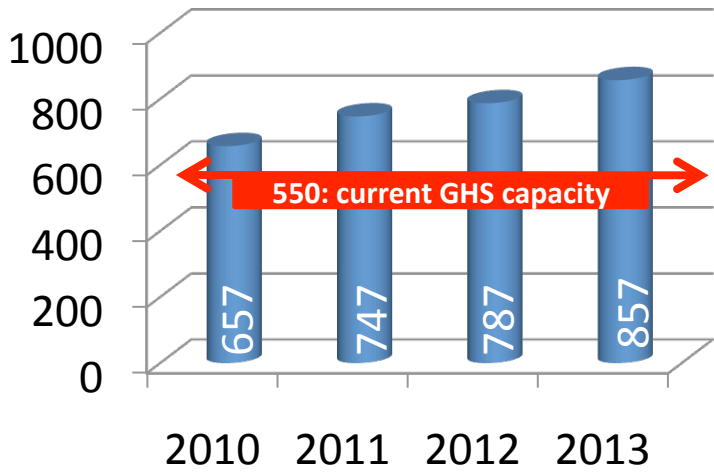
**Problem**

***Our schools are overcrowded NOW!***

- Grafton High School put on accreditation warning status by the New England Association of Schools & Colleges (04/08)
- Space issues across the district
- Overcrowding impacts delivery of curriculum and educational opportunities:
  - Limits class offerings (e.g., science labs)
  - Insufficient space for special education classes, nurse, guidance and media center
  - Physical education classes conducted in hallways

## Expected GHS Enrollment

(numbers as of 11/25/09)



**The situation is only getting worse: expected district enrollment in 2010 is 3,012, up from 2,712 in 2005**

**Solution**



***One school solves the district-wide space problem!***

- **New Grafton High School:** 186,000 sq. ft. with space for 900 students (*current GHS: 100,400 sq. ft., space for 550 students*)
- **Capacity for diverse curriculum:** approximately 60 classrooms, both traditional and specialized spaces for learning (science labs, large group instruction, art, band, special education, etc.)
- **Smart, cost-effective design:** core spaces (gym, auditorium, cafeteria) designed for school population of 1100; sustainable design can easily add 10 classrooms if needed to address future growth

**Cost**

- \$72,437,021 Total budget for the school project
- **(\$8,131,745)** Less non-reimbursable exclusions (site work, annex demo, turf)
- \$64,305,276 Basis for state reimbursement @ 56.89%
  - \$36,583,271 Facilities grant from Mass. State Building Authority
  - \$35,853,750 Cost to Grafton

**Average Home in Grafton: \$344,800**

- Approx. \$1.20-\$1.28 per \$1,000 of assessed value
- Avg. \$427 tax increase

(Note: final numbers pending loan terms)

**Why now: the need is urgent;** Grafton has 120 days from MSBA approval (1/27) to secure town approval or we start multi-year process over and our reimbursement rate is significantly lower next time; the state has funds available now (uncertain in the future), low construction costs, low borrowing costs

**Vote!**

**Sat, Feb 6th**

**Special Town Mtg**

- 10 a.m.
- Grafton High School
- *You must be present when vote is counted!*
- No absentee option

**If 2/3 vote "yes"**

**Tue, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Ballot vote**

- Polls open 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- Grafton Municipal Ctr
- Option to vote by absentee ballot

**If simple majority vote "yes"**

**New School Approved**

**Every Vote is Needed – GES passed by one vote at its town meeting!**

*“The most cost-effective and educationally sound option...to resolve district-wide overcrowding.”*

- Massachusetts State Building Authority

## Background

### How was it determined that the solution is to build a new high school?

Two separate town committees have worked over the past 6 years to evaluate the overcrowding issue and look for solutions. Ultimately, both committees determined a new school would be the best option. The Mass. State Building Authority (MSBA), which is responsible for oversight and funding of school building projects, informed Grafton that of the two options they required for consideration, an addition/renovation of the existing high school or building a new high school, they would give initial approval to building a new high school. In their remarks, the MSBA recognized the new high school as "the most cost-effective and educationally sound option" and also as an "opportunity to resolve district-wide overcrowding."

### Why does a new building cost the same as an addition/renovation of the high school?

There's the cost of the addition itself, the existing building would have to be updated and renovated in accordance with Mass. Building Code and the construction process would be longer by at least a year, possibly two, compared with new construction.

### What happens to the existing high school?

Construction of a new high school provides an additional building which will allow reconfiguration of grade distribution at each of the schools to alleviate overcrowding throughout the district. It is anticipated that grades 7 and 8 will be moved to the existing high school. Redistribution plans for the other grades are underway.

## Summary



### YES votes

- Addresses space issues across the district
- Modern learning environment to support diverse curriculum
- Improved delivery of education leading to better college and employment opportunities
- Better school system may increase property values and ability to successfully sell property
- Likely full day kindergarten
- Access to common areas for community use
- Capitalize on low construction/borrowing costs to maximize cost efficiency

### NO votes

- Overcrowding in the district worsens
- We lose state funding (goes to another town)
- We would have to start multi-year process over again with lower reimbursement and potential lower state funding in the future
- Possible loss of high school accreditation
- No full day kindergarten
- Possible double-sessions at the high school (different start/end times to the school day)
- Lose out on low construction/borrowing costs
- Short term solutions cost more and do not solve the problem

## Resources

### Grafton Education Alliance

- web: [www.graftoneducation.org](http://www.graftoneducation.org)
- email: [info@graftoneducation.org](mailto:info@graftoneducation.org)
- Follow us on Facebook

### SSBC

- web: [www.town.grafton.ma.us](http://www.town.grafton.ma.us)
- email: Rich McCarthy (chair)  
[mccarthy.richard@verizon.net](mailto:mccarthy.richard@verizon.net)

### Other

- Replay of meetings on Grafton Community TV ([www.graftontv.org](http://www.graftontv.org))
- GEA neighborhood meetings (email the GEA to schedule one in your area)