



What is the existing problem?

- The school was built in 1937 and totals 112,800 SF, including additions and renovations in 1952, 1967, 1989, 1998.
- In April 2004, Uxbridge High School was placed on probation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) for a facility that does not meet the educational needs of high school students.
- Students electing to School Choice out has increased significantly resulting in an annual cost to the town of over \$1.1M per year since 2005. School Choice out in 2002 was \$355,984.
- District wide, there is a capacity and overcrowding issue. Whitin Middle School is at 138% capacity while Taft Elementary School is at 110% capacity.
- Due to the overcrowded schools, three additional buildings/spaces are rented at an annual cost of \$173,000.

What is the solution?

- In November 2005 the Town voted and approved the purchase of land on Quaker Highway for the construction of a new high school.
- At the 2008 Fall Annual Town Meeting, the Town voted funds for a high school feasibility study in partnership with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA).
- The School Building Committee (SBC) determined that the best solution, district wide and long term, is to construct a new high school on Quaker Highway.
- On March 31, 2010 the MSBA voted to approve Uxbridge to proceed into the schematic design for the construction of a new 123,000 SF facility to replace the existing Uxbridge High School on the Quaker Highway site.
- The new high school facility will provide the necessary space to meet the programmatic standards for a 21st century high school and resolve the NEASC accreditation.
- The construction of a new high school will resolve the district wide overcrowded conditions and realign the existing schools into appropriately sized and educationally sound groupings. (Taft: PreK - 2; Whitin: grades 3 - 5; existing HS building: grades 6 - 8; new high school: grades 9-12).
- This district wide solution will help to address the Town's School Choice out problem.

Why is this an ideal time to move forward with the Project?

- The State's 3-year moratorium on funding school construction has finally been lifted.
- The State acknowledged the school facility issues and has placed Uxbridge at the "front of the line" for financial assistance, at a rate of 56.53% reimbursement of the total project costs.
- Due to the weak economy, there are far fewer construction projects now and in the foreseeable future, resulting in a very competitive bidding climate with construction costs lower than this region has seen in years.
- Borrowing rates are at an all time low, resulting in significant interest rate savings over the life of the loan.

What if we don't move forward now?

- Uxbridge would move from the "front of the line" for State funding to the very back - and would be behind more than 100 other cities and towns.
- After this current opportunity, Uxbridge would probably have to wait several years to reapply for State funding.
- Uxbridge would lose the approved guaranteed funding from the MSBA. The 5-year process would need to begin all over again with another \$1/2M for a Feasibility Study.
- The potential complete loss of accreditation.

To learn more before voting at TOWN MEETING ON JUNE 19, 2010....visit
<http://www.uxbridge-ma.gov/Pages/SBC.php> or <http://www.uxbridgeschools.com>