

October 2, 2015

Presented by:

Minuteman School Committee  
and School Building Committee



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# Minuteman High School Building Project

*Presentation for Town Officials*

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# Welcome

- Ford Spalding, Chair, Minuteman School Building Committee
- Jeffrey Stulin, Chair, Minuteman School Committee
- Kevin Mahoney, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Minuteman High School
- Steven C. Sharek, Director of Outreach and Development, Minuteman High School

# Introductory Video



# Who We Are

- Minuteman was established as a regional vocational-technical school district in the 1970s.
- Minuteman is one of 26 regional voc-techs in Massachusetts.
- Minuteman has 16 member towns.

# What We Do

- We deliver robust academics and powerful career and technical skills. This combination gives students ***a competitive advantage*** in the new economy.
- We link high school to ***college and career***.
- When they go to college, Minuteman graduates go ***with a purpose***, knowing what they like, what they do well, and what they want to pursue.

# The Massachusetts Model

- Our state's voc-tech delivery system is widely recognized as the best in the country.
- We don't teach vocational-technical skills in isolation.
- We integrate robust academics.
- This rigor and relevance gets results.
- Our system is the envy of the nation.

# Project Benefits

The option we will explain today:

- Is the most educationally beneficial for students
- Is the most affordable for taxpayers
- Safeguards our accreditation

# Today's Agenda

- Where the Project Stands
- A Look at the Upcoming Timeline
- Financing the Project
- Enrollment Issues
- Going It Alone
- The Decision-Making Process
- How Local Input Has Shaped the Project
- Questions and Answers



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# Where We Are

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# Where the Project Stands

- We began a Feasibility Study through the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) in 2009.
- Early this year, we gave you preliminary cost estimates for several options to improve our school facility.
- We held public meetings in 15 of our 16 communities, seeking input on the options. (89.1% of those completing a survey supported a new school.)
- The School Building Committee and School Committee decided on a “preferred solution” – construction of a new school.

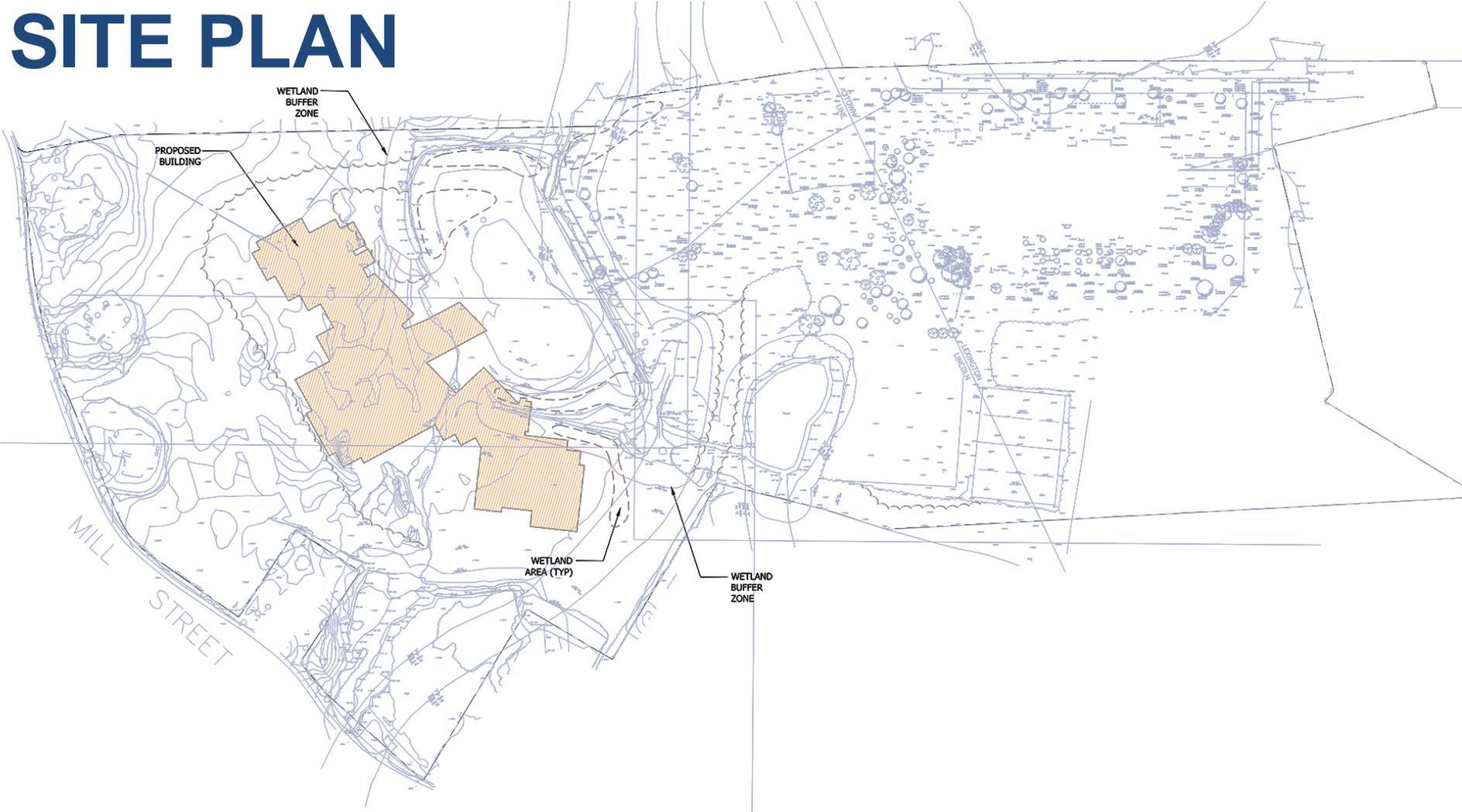
# Where the Project Stands

- On August 6, the MSBA Board of Directors unanimously voted to endorse our “preferred solution” – construction of a new school with a design enrollment of 628 students.
- The MSBA Board and its staff endorsed our Educational Program Plan which includes two Career Academies, 16 career technical education programs, and robust academic offerings.
- The MSBA Board moved us into “Module 4,” schematic design.
- A professional poll conducted by David Paleologos of DAPA Research, Inc. showed that 68.5% of district voters support construction of a new Minuteman High School.

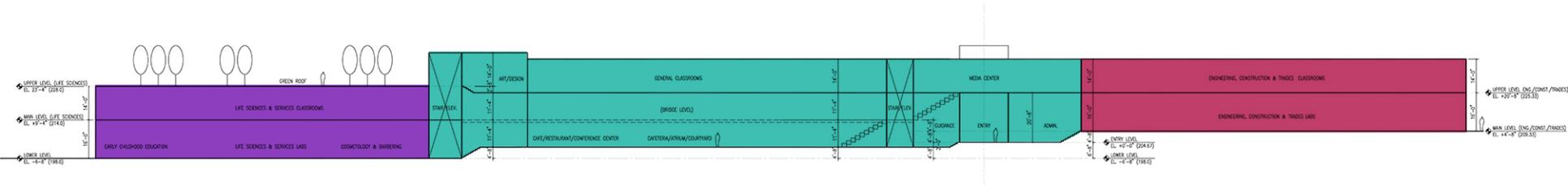
# Our Educational Program Plan

Engineering, Construction, & Trades Academy Programs	Shared Services & Programs		Life Sciences & Services Academy Programs
<p>Advanced Manufacturing &amp; Metal Fabrication 48.0501 / 48.0599</p>	<p>Nursing Services Library &amp; Media Center Special Education</p>		<p>Culinary Arts &amp; Hospitality 12.0500 / 52.0901</p>
<p>Automotive 47.0604</p>	<p>Common Planning Time</p>		<p>Cosmetology &amp; Barbering 12.0404 / 12.0402</p>
<p>Carpentry 46.0201</p>	<p>Academic Programs</p>		<p>Early Education &amp; Care 13.1210</p>
<p>Design &amp; Visual Communications 50.0401</p>	<p>Chemistry, Science &amp; Physics English Language Arts Mathematics Physical Education</p>	<p>Humanities Art &amp; Music Guidance Counseling Career Development Advanced Placement</p>	<p>Health Occupations 51.0000</p>
<p>Electrical 46.0302</p>	<p>Common Core CVTE Competencies</p>		<p>Environmental Science 15.0507</p>
<p>Multi-Media Engineering 09.0701</p>	<p>Health &amp; Safety Entrepreneurship Financial Literacy</p>	<p>Digital Literacy Career Guidance Work based Learning Internships &amp; Co-Op</p>	<p>Biotechnology 15.0401</p>
<p>Plumbing &amp; HVAC 46.0603 / 47.0201</p>	<p>Reading Consultancy Student Portfolios Executive Purpose Project Based Learning</p>		<p>Horticulture &amp; Landscaping Tech 1.0601</p>
<p>Programming &amp; Web Development 11.0201</p>			
<p>Robotics Engineering Automation 15.0000 / 15.0403</p>			

# PROPOSED SITE PLAN



# SECTION







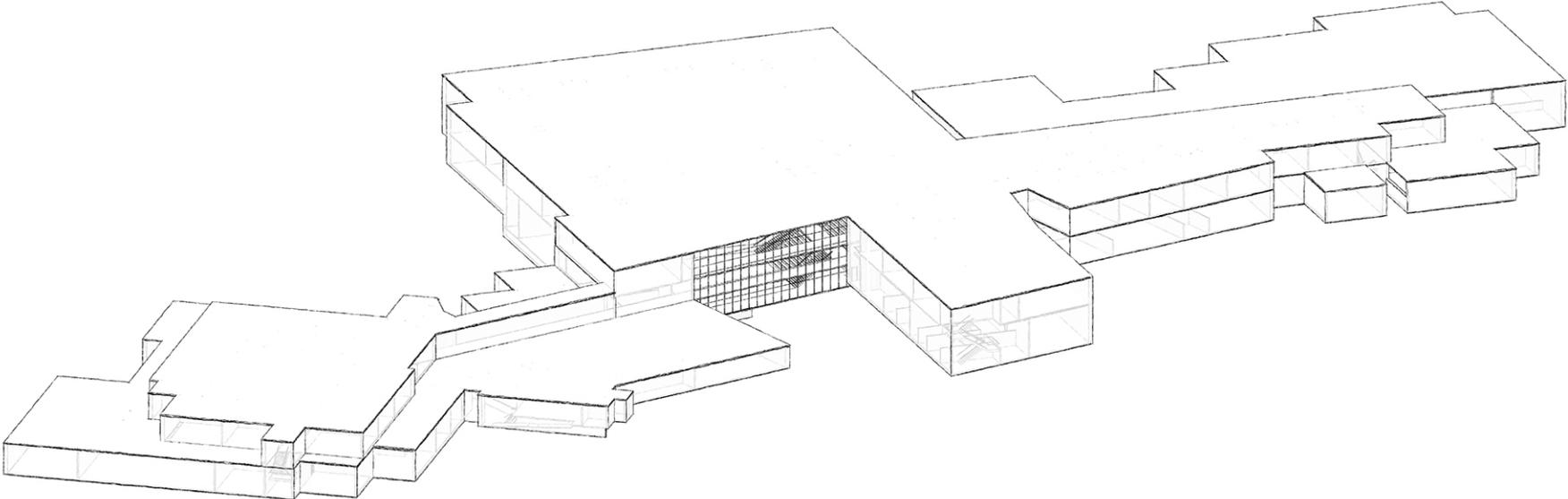
# UPPER LEVEL

## LEGEND

- CLASSROOM
- LABS/ SHOP AREAS
- SPED & SUPPORT
- CORE FACILITIES
- ADMIN & TEACHER
- SUPPORT / STORAGE



# BIRDS-EYE VIEW





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# The MSBA Process and Timelines

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# MSBA Module 4 - Design

- Underway: Robust Schematic Design, including Costs
- November 17: School Building Committee and School Committee meet to approve Schematic Design
- December 1: Deadline for Schematic Design documents to be submitted to MSBA
- January 27, 2016: MSBA Board of Directors meets

# Upcoming MSBA Modules

- Module 5 (Local Approval of Funding): By June 30, 2016
- Module 6 (Construction Management)
- Module 7 (Actual Construction)
- Module 8 (Project Completion): On or before September 2020



# Funding

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# Funding by the Numbers

- Total project cost: Not to exceed \$144.9 million
- State reimbursement rate: At least 40% of eligible costs
- State reimbursement: Up to \$58 million
- Net cost: \$86.9 million
- Annual debt service: \$3.9 million
- Annual tax impact on median homeowner: \$6.67 to \$116.36

# How Voc-Tech Compares

- By its very nature, vocational-technical education is more complex and costs more to deliver:
  - “Two schools in one” with nearly double the faculty
  - Investment in faculty with industry expertise is greater
  - Chapter 74 square footage requirements
  - Safety and health requirements
  - Major equipment needs
  - Infrastructure needs to mirror current industrial and business standards

# How We Compare

- There have been several renovation projects at voc-tech schools.
- There are few comparable new construction projects.
- Essex Agricultural and Technical High School cost \$134.5 million. Construction began in 2012.
- Putnam Vocational Technical High School was built for \$114.3 million. It was completed in 2012.
- In today's dollars, we are in line with those projects.
- We will be within the range of cost per square foot designated by MSBA.



# Enrollment Issues

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# Short-Term Challenges

- There's still some stigma in attending.
- We don't have a captive audience.
- The Minuteman option is poorly understood by students, families, and some town officials and educators.
- The aging Minuteman facility compares poorly to most schools in our member towns.
- The current political discord creates an atmosphere of uncertainty about the school's future.

# Long-Term Opportunities

- A new, modern, attractive facility
- New career path offerings and a review and updating of all current vocational-technical programs
- A review of advanced academic offerings
- A new emphasis on making the school more welcoming to female students
- A better partnership between Minuteman and local educators
- A new approach to “marketing” guided by a national expert
- End of political discord and uncertainty about the school’s future

# Minuteman's Position on Enrollment

- We analyzed multiple sources of data, including enrollment projections from the New England School Development Council (NESDEC)
- The data confirms a large pool of potential students
- We see shifting perceptions about the value of vocational-technical education (Pioneer Institute, Northeastern University, NPR Radio)
- We are developing more effective marketing efforts
- We are confident the enrollment goals are realistic

# MSBA's Position on Enrollment

- MSBA independently reviewed the data and determined that it demonstrated sufficient demand.
- MSBA concluded that it would not support building a school with a design enrollment of less than 600 students.
- If we want MSBA's financial support, we need to accept the current design enrollment of 628.



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# Going It Alone

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# Can We Do Nothing?

- There isn't a **“do nothing”** option.
- Critical repairs must be done and changes must be made to ensure a safe building for our students, to provide them the best education possible, and to maintain our accreditation.

# Going It Alone

1. We will lose up to \$58 million in state funds.
2. Our school's accreditation could be lost.
3. Uncertainty will likely hurt enrollment, driving up per pupil costs to member communities.
4. We will still need to make more than \$100 million in repairs in a failing building.
5. We will need to make these repairs without state help.

# Going It Alone

1. When major repairs reach a “tipping point,” they would automatically trigger the need to bring the entire building into compliance with building codes, fire safety codes, and handicap accessibility laws.
2. The process is no longer up to us. **One example:** In June 2011, a new Assistant Fire Chief in Lexington shut down the Minuteman “Trades Hall” until we made \$500,000 in repairs.



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# Decision-Making Process

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# Options for Local Funding Approval

- Two options are available:
  - 16 individual Town Meeting votes and an unknown number of debt override votes
  - A single, one-day District-wide ballot
- Both options are allowed by state law, Chapter 71, Sections 16(d) and 16(n)
- Minuteman has discussed both options.
- No decision has been made.



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# How Local Input Has Already Shaped the Process

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# Impact of Local Input

- We're designing the ***smallest possible school*** that is financially feasible and educationally responsible.
- We secured the largest possible state reimbursement rate.
- We're planning for fewer out-of-district students.
- We secured a change in state regulations so that non-member communities will pay their fair share of the capital costs for a new school.



# Recap

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# Project Highlights

- The MSBA-funded project creates a safe, modern facility designed to provide powerful career and technical education and robust academics
- It is the least expensive option
- It retains our regional accreditation

# Act Now

- We have **one** shot: until June 30, 2016.
- We have a limited window to preserve **40%** MSBA funding.
- If we get out of the MSBA project pipeline, we might not get back in.
- Even if we do get back in, our base reimbursement rate would fall to **31%**.

# Act Later

- Far more expensive project for the District
- Far inferior educational results
- Years of political chaos due to the need to bond for numerous individual projects
- Risk of escalating costs due to interest rate and/or construction cost increases
- Continued uncertainty for students and parents in the District



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# Questions and Answers

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# For More Information

- Visit the Minuteman website for more information on the building project:

[www.minuteman.org](http://www.minuteman.org)



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**Thank You**

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