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First couple of days are in the books!

Monday and Tuesday were filled with professional development, mandated annual trainings along with some relay races and other team building activities sprinkled into the schedules. Everything kicked off with another fantastic performance by the Westford Academy Marching Band and Color Guard to open up the district wide staff meeting Monday morning. Tuesday also included the voluntary orientations for students in grades 6 at the middle schools and grade 9 at Westford Academy. Wednesday required a whole new level of energy and engagement as the rest of the students in grades 1-12 joined in on all of the fun. Kindergarten and PreSchool will begin classes next week and we look forward to welcoming all of them, as well.

In the excitement of the beginning of the school year, it is very important to share our appreciation for all of the work that our custodial and maintenance staff were able to complete during the summer preparing the buildings and all of the spaces for everyone's return. A great deal of pride and care is clearly exhibited in how everything is maintained. I am always astonished how amazing the floors can look as they welcome thousands of shoes and rolling wheels to put them to the test.

Of course, there is a wide range of ages to our buildings and some have greater needs than others. As we discussed last year, Westford Public Schools has been invited into the Eligibility Phase by the Massachusetts School Building Association (MSBA) for consideration of a building project for the Robinson Elementary school. One of the possible outcomes could be consolidating the Robinson and Abbot schools into a larger new elementary school. This process takes many years and districts work closely with the MSBA through various phases to present to the town voters options to consider. The Eligibility Phase is the first of nine different phases. One of the expectations within this first phase is to establish a building project committee. In August, the Westford Selectboard

voted to establish the official Robinson School Building Committee (RSBC). The charge was as follows:

The RSBC established as the School Building Committee for the Colonel John Robinson Elementary School Project to study the feasibility, renovation, expansion and or replacement of the Robinson Elementary School and then carry out such project if deemed necessary and appropriate by the town and MSBA.

This 11 person committee will include 2 residents at large to join as voting members. These individuals from the community should have knowledge of the educational mission of the facility and/or experience with architecture or engineering and/or construction experience. If you would like to be considered for one of those positions, please fill out the citizen action form located on the Town Website in order to express your interest: [Town of Westford Boards & Committees System \(https://data.westfordma.gov/bc/newcaf.php\)](https://data.westfordma.gov/bc/newcaf.php)

Cheers,

Chris

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