



WILDWOOD STUDY PROJECT



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Background
- Overview of Capital Study Project
- Project Description
- Capital Study Objectives
- Where WPS is Currently
- Snapshot of Program Locations
- View To The Near Future – Planning for Wildwood Now



BACKGROUND

- During the 2019-20 school year it became clear that the Wildwood Early Childhood Center School was on ‘borrowed time’ with growing concerns by many of the overall state of the facility
- Concerns were extensive and included:
 - Overall lifespan expectancy of major mechanical systems (i.e. heating)
 - Disruptions with system failures (i.e. steam pipe leaks,)
 - Concerns about the aging interior finishes and their condition

The Wildwood is the oldest operating school in the district constructed in 1955 and is at the end of its useful life. It is no longer conducive to support teaching and learning – one of the fundamental reasons why the MSBA invited us into the building program over and above dozens of other applications.

OVERVIEW OF CAPITAL STUDY PROJECT

- As part of the FY21 budget process, a capital expenditure item was recommended by the Superintendent of Schools that sought funds to enlist the services of a consultant to help identify an alternative plan for the Wildwood in the event that the school needed to close.
- This recommendations was included as part of the FY21 budget plan and approved by the School Committee, the Finance Committee and passed at Town Meeting in the spring of 2020
- Unfortunately, the pandemic led to a delay in releasing the *Request for Qualifications* (RFQ) for the study until March of 2022
- In mid-April 2022, the Town of Wilmington selected the firm Dore & Whittier to conduct the Wildwood School Feasibility Study



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

As taken from the Request for Qualifications document:

“The Town of Wilmington, through its Town Manager as Awarding Authority, in accordance with Chapter 7C, Sections 44 -58 of the Mass. General Laws, seeks proposals from qualified architects or engineers for Designer Services to conduct a feasibility study that recommends the timeliest and most cost-effective approach to accommodate students and staff currently occupying the Wildwood Early Childhood Center (Wildwood School) located at 182 Wildwood Street, Wilmington, MA. The school is at the end of life and has experienced numerous deficiencies requiring frequent repair. The objective is to provide an environment that complies with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) standards and is conducive to learning and teaching/working.”





CAPITAL STUDY OBJECTIVES

The project objectives noted in the RFQ included the following:

- Modest renovations to the Wildwood School; or
- Addition of modular classrooms to the Wildwood School as a standalone option or in conjunction with modest modifications to the Wildwood School; or
- Evaluate leasing private space that would accommodate the needs of a PreK-K school with a student enrollment on par with Wildwood School; or
- Evaluate other local schools to determine the viability and cost/benefit of incorporating the student population from the Wildwood School into another school building through alternative scheduling, limited building modifications or modular classrooms

WHERE WPS IS CURRENTLY



The oil leaked experienced early last spring led to a significant situation that the Town had to contend with

The decision was made to vacate the school building given the magnitude of work necessary to be completed at the site



The District was forced to establish a temporary plan to divide students and staff to three locations in existing schools: the **high school**, the **Shawsheen** and the **Woburn Street School**

While the 2021-22 plan worked reasonably well, we have adjusted this for the upcoming 2022-23 school year

For this school year, the students will be at the **West Intermediate School**, the **Shawsheen** and the **Woburn Street School**

2022-23 WILDWOOD PROGRAM LOCATIONS



WEST INTERMEDIATE

- (1) Pre-K Class
- (2) Kindergarten Classrooms
- (2) Specialized Special Education Classrooms

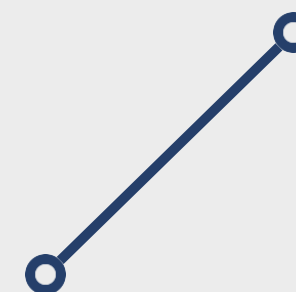
Total Classrooms Used: 5



WOBURN STREET

- (3) Kindergarten Classrooms

Total Classrooms Used: 3



SHAWSHEEN

- (1) Pre-K Classroom
- (2) Kindergarten Classrooms
- (1) Specialized Special Education Classroom

Total Classrooms Used: 4



VIEW TO THE NEAR FUTURE – PLANNING FOR WILDWOOD NOW

- Even with the prospect of a new school building as part of the MSBA building program, it will still be 5-7 years away before that is online
- Although it is possible to return to the Wildwood following the oil clean-up, it is not believed to be in the best interest of our students to do so given that all of the original concerns remain
- While the current temporary locations for the 2022-23 school year are manageable, remaining in this configuration with the limitations of the current 'host' schools for the next 5-7 years is not ideal



WILDWOOD STUDY PRESENTATION

By
DORE & WHITTIER





NEXT STEPS



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■ ***PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION & 2022 TIMELINE OF NEXT STEPS***

By Early September – reconvene the Wildwood School Building to review the final report

September – October – Wildwood School Building Committee will review options and assist in determining the best decision to pursue

Late October – representatives of the Wildwood School Building Committee to present to the three boards a final recommendation

By/Around November 1 – any estimated financial costs associated with the final recommendation will be identified and incorporated into consideration for capital requests as part of the FY24 budget planning



THANK YOU



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