Community Meeting #9: New Abbot Options

November 20, 2026

For more information, visit

www.robinsonschoolproject.com

Questions? Email us at:

info@robinsonschoolproject.com



Colonel John Robinson Elementary School

LAVALLEE | BRENSINGER ARCHITECTS

ROBINSON SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

VALERY YOUNG, Chair, School Committee
LINDSAY RICHARD, Vice-Chair, Resident
JEFF GOODWIN, Director of Facilities
THOMAS WIMBERG, MEGHAN O'CONNELL — Permanent Town Building Committee
STEPHEN TAYLOR, Resident
ALLISON N CAMMARATA, Resident

KEVIN LACOSTE, Robinson School Principal
SUNEET CHADHA, Finance Committee
G. THOMAS CLAY, Select Board
CHRISTOPHER CHEW, Superintendent of Schools
MIKE EDWARDS, Interim Town Manager
ELIZABETH SAWYER, Select Board

Massachusetts School Building Authority
Funding Affordable, Sustainable, and Efficient Schools in Partnership with Local Communities

WESTFORD MASSACHUSETTS

WESTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

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1

Major repair needs at three schools

2023 Districtwide Facilities Assessment identified major capital repair needs at Abbot, Robinson, and Day.

2

Highest Need

Robinson determined to have the greatest overall capital repair needs.

3

An outdated floor plan

Robinson's outdated open-suite floor plan is a major educational and facility challenge.



Open-suite classroom at Robinson

WHAT IS THE PROCESS?

Goal: the most cost-effective, educationally appropriate solution

WESTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

48%

MSBA reimbursement of eligible costs

Not all costs are eligible, so the net reimbursement rate will be lower.

Studies a range of options
Renovation, renovation/addition, and all-new construction

Follows a well-defined MSBA process
Weighs education, space use, durability, energy, cost, and site limits

Looks across the whole district
Analyzes elementary school space districtwide to make the best use of it

THREE ENROLLMENT SCENARIOS STUDIED

470 students
PreK–2

705 students
PreK–5

1,065 students
PreK–5

WORK COMPLETED TO DATE

Eight months of study, shaped by community input

WESTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Project Charter
Shared project goals
March 2026

Existing Conditions
Assessments and repair costs
March – May 2026

Educational Visioning
With Teachers, Parents, and Administrators
March – May 2026

Sustainability
Goals set; HVAC system selected
Apr – Oct 2026

Traffic Study
Traffic and site access
March - May 2026

Redistricting
Attendance boundary options
June - Sep 2026

Site Planning
Sites compared; Abbot selected
Apr – Oct 2026

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
APR 9	**APR 29**	**MAY 18**	**JUN 1**	**JUN 11**	**SEP 9**	**OCT 13**	**NOV 17**	**NOV 20**
Kickoff & Project Charter	Sustainability	Traffic	Education	Recap	Redistricting	Project Update	New Abbot Options	**New Abbot Options**

9 community meetings

11 Building Committee meetings

3 School Committee meetings

TWO KEY VOTES AHEAD

The Building Committee's choice is what the town votes on

WESTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FEBRUARY 2, 2027

Preferred Option Vote

The Building Committee selects one preferred option.

OCTOBER 2027

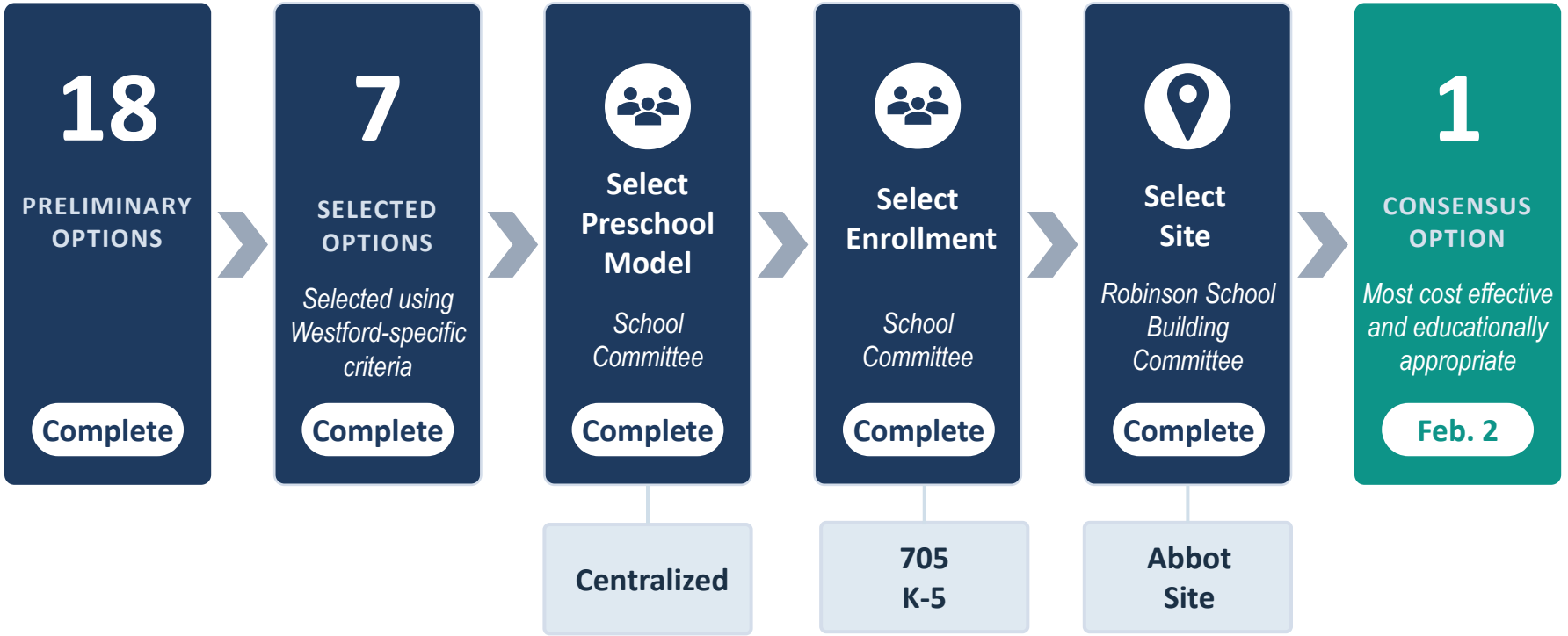
Town Vote

Residents vote on that preferred option at Town Meeting and the ballot.

FEASIBILITY STUDY PROCESS

Narrowing 18 options down to one by building consensus with community input.

WESTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



DECISIONS TO DATE: PRE-K MODEL

Decision 1 of 3

WESTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

THE DECISION

Centralized Pre-K

Selected by the School Committee

1 Pre-K model — 2 Enrollment — 3 Site

WHY IT WAS SELECTED

- Consolidates specialists and support services
- More efficient staff scheduling and shared planning time
- Protects programming from year-to-year enrollment fluctuations
- Builds a stronger sense of community for our youngest learners

DECISIONS TO DATE: ENROLLMENT & GRADES

Decision 2 of 3

WESTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

THE DECISION

705 students K–5 schools

Across the district. Selected by the School Committee

1 Pre-K model — 2 **Enrollment** — 3 Site

WHY IT WAS SELECTED

- Fewer, less disruptive transitions for students and families
- Stronger vertical alignment and curriculum continuity K–5
- Keeps siblings together in one building
- Avoids splitting cohorts at the middle school transition

DECISIONS TO DATE: SITE

Decision 3 of 3

THE DECISION

Abbot site

Selected by the Robinson School Building Committee

1 Pre-K model — 2 Enrollment — 3 **Site**

WHY IT WAS SELECTED

Room to build

Enough space on site for a new 705-student school, with adequate site access to minimize disruption to the existing school during construction.

Central location

Its central location in town means redistricting makes sense, with students assigned to schools near them.

RENOVATING ABBOT UNDER TODAY'S CODES

Any renovation requires significant work

WESTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Today's codes are much stricter than when Abbot was built

Renovating Abbot means bringing the building up to current standards for earthquake safety, energy efficiency, fire protection, and accessibility.

Earthquake safety

- Reinforce or replace masonry walls
- Anchor exterior brick
- Upgrade key structural elements

Energy efficiency

- Add insulation to the exterior walls
- Replace the windows

Fire protection

- New sprinkler system
- New fire alarm system

Accessibility

- Accessible bathrooms
- A lift to the stage
- Full ADA compliance

ABBOT SITE ALTERNATIVES - Addition/Renovation and New



ABBOT 2

Addition with partial renovation of Abbot; replacement of district offices not included



ABBOT 2A

Addition with full renovation of Abbot for school use and district offices



ABBOT 3

New Construction; no work in Abbot; replacement of district offices not included



ABBOT 3A

New Construction with new district offices; no work in Abbot



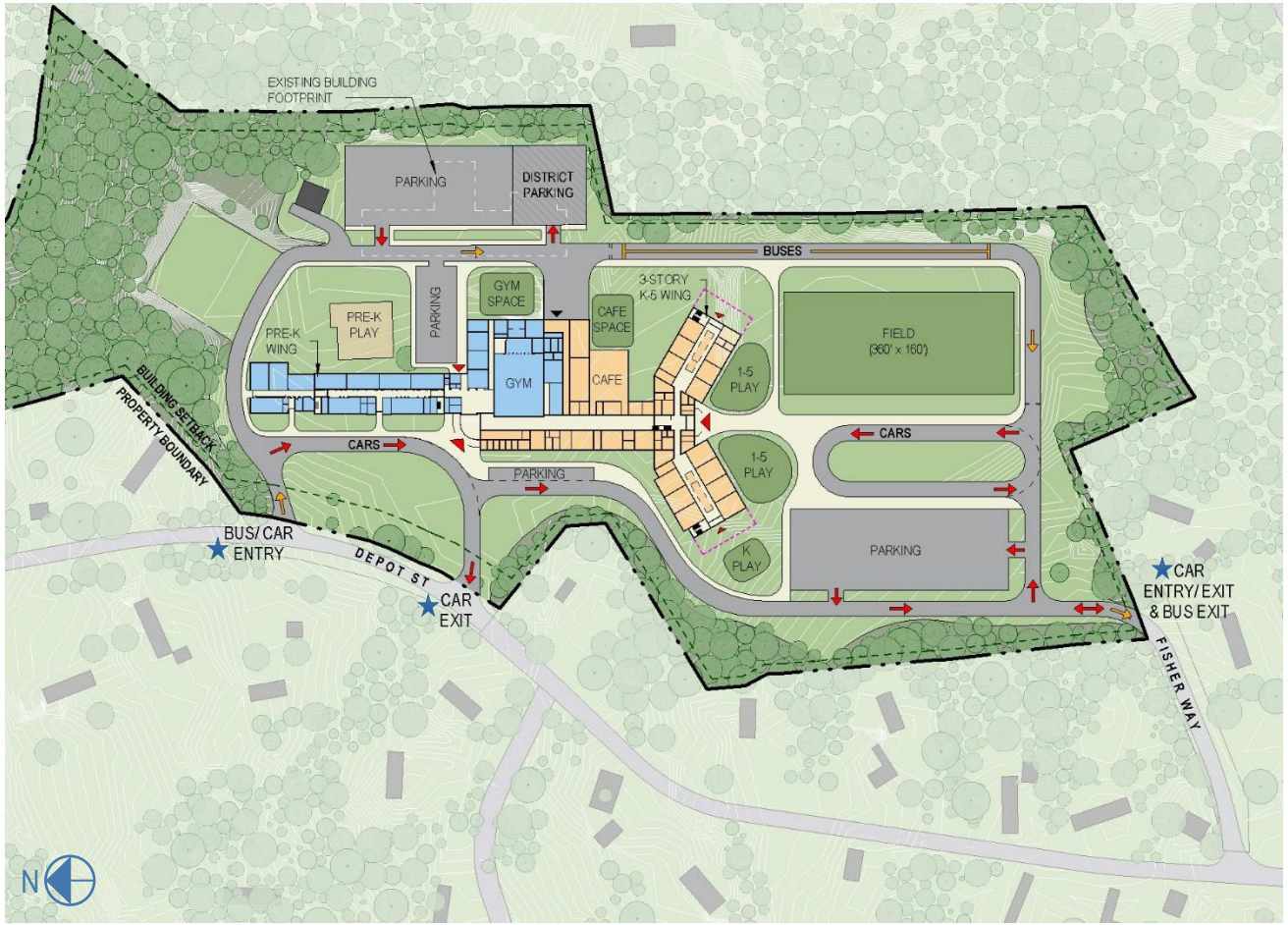
ABBOT 3B

New Construction with full renovation of Abbot for Pre-K and District Offices

ABBOT 2A – Addition/Renovation – 705

K-5 Enrollment	705
Acres	32
Estimated Buildable Acres	12.3
GSF Renovation (Pre-K)	19,605
GSF Renovation (District Offices)	15,540
GSF Renovation (Partial K-5)	22,796
GSF Renovation Total	57,941
GSF New (partial K-5)	102,055
Total GSF	159,996
Stories	1-3
Car Queue # *Provided/Needed*	66/71
# of Parking Spots *Provided/Needed*	262/262
# of Buses *Provided/Needed*	16/16
SF Playground	21,000

Abbot renovated for Pre-K and District Offices.



LEGEND

- EXISTING BUILDING RENOVATED
- FUTURE EXPANSION
- NEW CONSTRUCTION
- EXISTING; RENO NOT IN SCOPE

0' 80' 160' 320' 640'

ABBOT 3A – New Construction – 705

K-5 Enrollment	705
Acres	32
Estimated Buildable Acres	12.3
GSF Renovation	0
GSF New (Pre-K, K-5)	142,323
GSF New (District Offices)	15,540
Total GSF	157,863
Stories	1-3
Car Queue # *Provided/Needed*	71/71
# of Parking Spots *Provided/Needed*	262/262
# of Buses *Provided/Needed*	16/16
SF Playground	21,000

New district offices included in the new building. No work in Abbot included in scope.



WHAT COMES NEXT

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Any reuse of the existing Abbot building requires major upgrades

Whether it becomes a school, district or town offices, or another use, today's building codes require major upgrades. For Pre-K and district offices, that means rebuilding most of its interior.

THE PATH TO A FINAL DESIGN

NOW
All Abbot-site designs are being priced

In progress

JANUARY
Costs shared with the community

FEBRUARY 2
Building Committee chooses one final design

FALL 2027
That design goes to the town for a vote

IF THE PROJECT IS APPROVED

Some buildings would no longer be used as schools

WESTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ROBINSON



WOULD CLOSE

After the new school opens

ABBOT



DEPENDS ON DESIGN

May or may not be used by the new school, depending on the design chosen

DAY



COULD CLOSE

Depending on enrollment trends

What happens to these buildings and sites? Options for their future will be shared before Town Meeting and the ballot vote in fall 2027.

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IN FALL 2027, VOTERS WILL CHOOSE BETWEEN

WESTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Fix up existing schools

THE WORK

Major repairs to the existing school buildings

WHO PAYS?

Westford taxpayers, likely without state help

LAYOUTS

Current layouts stay, including Robinson's open suites and Abbot's undersized classrooms

OR

Consolidate and rebuild

THE WORK

The single final design chosen by the Building Committee

WHO PAYS?

Westford taxpayers, with state reimbursement for eligible costs

LAYOUTS

New spaces, as shown in the chosen design

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

November 2026 – February 2027

WESTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- **Community Forum** — Stony Brook School & Remote
- **RSBC** — Remote
- **School Committee** — Millennium Bldg & Remote
- **Tri-Board** — Millennium Bldg & Remote

Dec. 15	12:00 PM	**RSBC: Revised Options with Costs**	
Week of Jan. 19		**Community Forums: Preferred Solution with Costs**	
Feb. 2	12:00 PM	**RSBC: Preferred Solution Vote**	☑
Feb. 22	7:00 PM	**Tri-Board Vote to Recommend PSR**	☑

Q&A

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