

Mt. Greylock High School Building Study

The Mt. Greylock School Committee formed a Building Committee in February 2005, as a result of concerns regarding the existing facilities. After years of tight school budgets with minimal funding for maintenance and capital improvements, the building needs work. Known deficiencies in the heating and ventilation systems triggered a review of all of the building systems in 2002. The systems were found to be outdated and inefficient. These conditions are further exacerbated by today's rising energy costs. Additionally, performing needed improvements at the school will trigger issues regarding compliance with modern building code and Americans with Disabilities Act provisions.

The Building Committee has heard that certain aspects of the facility are adversely affecting educational activities at the school. The layout of the middle school classrooms impedes organization of the middle school in the manner now recommended by educators. The science labs lack modern safety features, which limit hands-on student work. The undersized gym and inadequate cafeteria are imposing limits on the ability of the administration to schedule classes.

The design firm of Dore & Whittier Architects has been hired by the MGRHS to investigate the problems and to consider at least three options for upgrading the existing facility:

1. A minor renovation addressing the most critical building and code deficiencies
2. A major renovation and possible addition and/or partial demolition addressing all identified educational, building and code deficiencies
3. Replacing the existing facility with a new school built on the same property.

The Building Committee will host a series of public meetings to gather information for use in the feasibility study and to obtain public feedback on the options to be included in the study. The public's participation is strongly encouraged to ensure that all pertinent issues are considered in the feasibility study. **All meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be in the high school library, except for the January 31st session, which will be held in the Lanesborough Elementary School.**

Tuesday, January 10, 2006: current building conditions and deficiencies

Tuesday, January 24: enrollment projections, educational needs and preview of options

Tuesday, January 31: Repeat of first two sessions – **at Lanesborough Elementary School**

Wednesday, February 15: Review of options

Tuesday, February 28: Cost analysis of options

The Building Committee expects to present recommendations to the School Committee during the February and March 2006 budget process.

The Building Committee has a homepage on the school's website at www.mgrhs.org, which includes numerous prior studies on various aspects of the building and its needs. A complete list of the Building Committee meetings, which are open to the public, and the public hearings, will be posted on the Calendar section of the school website. The public may contact Andy Hogeland, chairperson of the Building Committee, for additional information, by phone at home 458-5966 or by email to hogeland@adelphia.net.