

Mount Greylock Regional School Feasibility Study Update #2 Enrollment Projections and Space Needs Progress Report

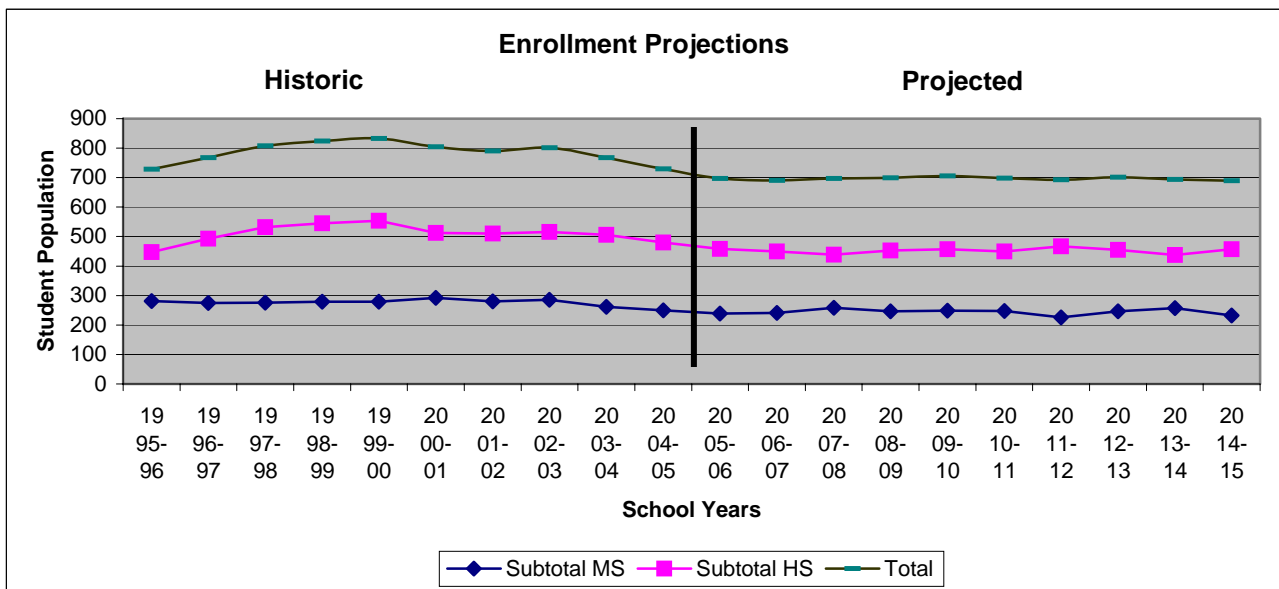
The Mt. Greylock Regional School has served our community well for the last 45 years. However, other than an addition in 1968, minimal building work has been undertaken in the past decades. The District has undertaken a comprehensive Feasibility Study of the Regional School to determine what facility changes are required and what options we have. The Building Committee has established a four-step process for answering these questions, and hired Dore and Whittier Architects, Inc. to perform this study. The first progress report reviewed the building and site assessment. The study process includes active community participation and several upcoming public meetings:

Public Meetings at Mt. Greylock Regional School Library, 7:00 PM	
Building and Site Assessment	Completed
Projected Enrollments and Educational Space Needs	January 24, 2006
Development of Building Options (Renovations Only, Additions & Renovations, or New Facility)	February 15, 2006
Cost Implications of Building Options	February 28, 2006
Public Meeting at Lanesboro School Cafeteria, 7:00 PM	
Building Assessment and Educational Space Needs	January 31, 2006

The second step in the study process is the development of 10 year enrollment projections and the development of an educational space needs program. The enrollment forecast assists the design team in developing the space requirements for the school and the space needs program shapes the conceptual design options that will be developed later during the next step of the Feasibility Study process.

Projected Enrollments

As shown below, the 10-year enrollment projections at Mount Greylock illustrate a stable and slightly increasing school population over current enrollment:



The projections were prepared utilizing the most reliable statistical data available as of January 2006 and the following protocol:

- Reviewed historical enrollment information from feeder towns: Lanesborough, Williamstown, Hancock, and New Ashford
- Reviewed municipal and regional plans and demographic information of the four community areas, the county and the state
- Assembled historical births data from MA Dept. of Health for each community
- Researched and interviewed knowledgeable stakeholders inside and outside the regional school district
- Reviewed historic grade by grade enrollment trends
- Reviewed “out of district” student enrollment policies
- Prepared 10-year K-12 enrollment projections and extrapolated trends for grades 7-12 resulting in a projected enrollment of 750 to 800 students

Space Needs

The school district has prepared a working model of space needs and program requirements for current and projected needs. This working document will be utilized by the design team for preparation of conceptual design options. Specific allocations for different uses will be developed with significant opportunities for public input as the design progresses.

The current facility is a sprawling one-story building that does not utilize the existing space as efficiently as possible. The demands on educational facilities have changed significantly since the 1960’s when our school was designed. Evolving educational delivery methods coupled with Federal and State mandated programs have changed the way schools function. Some of these changes include:

- The Education Reform Act of 1993
- Requirements for Special Education
- Specialized instruction requires flexible meeting spaces
- Title IX requirements mandate equal opportunities (space) for both boys and girls
- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires the building be fully accessible for the handicapped
- Dramatic changes in the use of technology applications in education

- Security and visibility issues are a high priority
- A desire to run “schools with in a school” by separating the middle school population from the high school
- Interest in more community utilization

The existing school is comprised of approximately 183,000 square feet of space. When the school was designed it had a capacity for over 1,000 students; however, due to the changes discussed above the estimated requirements would be only slightly smaller.

New Program Highlights to be Outlined in Conceptual Design

- More efficient use of general educational space
- Provides for project-based learning and collaborative teaching
- Fewer but larger modern science labs
- Consolidated media center/computer labs/graphics arts labs/technology education center
- Larger arts space
- Better layout of music space
- Better layout and achieve Title IX equality for physical education space
- Adequate special education space
- Larger, more functional performing arts space

Documents and further information posted at: www.mgrhs.org on the “Build Committee” link. The Building Committee welcomes the opportunity to further discuss the feasibility study individually or with organizations. Contact information available on the webpage.