



**January 26, 2018**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Belmont High School Building Committee, BHS-BC@belmont-ma.gov

◆ **Grade Configuration & Design Scheme Decisions**

◆ **Project Costs**

◆ **Next Step – Schematic Design**

On Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, after more than two years of work by the Belmont High School Building Committee (BHSBC), the School Committee, the School Administration, and Belmont’s Selectmen, significant decisions were made regarding the Belmont High School Building Project:

- The Belmont School Committee voted unanimously to approve a 7-12 grade configuration model for the Project.
- The Belmont High School Building Committee voted unanimously to go forward with the design scheme of a major addition with a minor renovation for the Project, thereby maintaining, with upgrades, the existing fieldhouse and pool.

The decision to go forward with a 7-12 school configuration and the major addition with minor renovation design scheme was based on extensive research and information gathering, including:

- Three educational visioning workshops
- Grade configuration and District-wide space analysis
- Building systems assessment
- Site constraint study
- Educational programming analysis
- Community design workshops
- Enrollment trend analysis
- Teacher and school administrator input
- Community feedback, including 1,794 survey responses
- Traffic pattern and options analysis
- Social-emotional-learning analysis
- Cost modeling and analysis
- Environmental and sustainable design study

Supporting documentation, including reports and presentation materials for the items mentioned above, is available at [www.belmonthighschoolproject.org](http://www.belmonthighschoolproject.org).

The Belmont School District is experiencing skyrocketing enrollment. The enrollment has increased by 631 students over the past six years. Furthermore, the MSBA’s demographers and an independently contracted demographer, retained by Belmont, both project a steady upward trend of an additional 100+ new students coming to the district every year for the foreseeable future. These enrollment numbers represent a primary factor in both the grade configuration and design scheme decisions. The

selected building scheme will address the educational and facility-related needs of Belmont's students, and will support continued enrollment growth and evolving teaching models.

The square footage of the proposed design is based on the number of students and the educational program. The current size of the 9-12 high school is 257,120 SF. The design enrollment for the new 7-12 building is 2,215 students, leading to a square footage of 451,575 SF. At this preliminary stage of the project, estimated project costs are primarily derived from the square footage of the building. The square footage cost estimate, consisting of both renovated and new spaces, is created using current building industry costs specific to large high schools in this region.

Tom Gatzunis of Daedalus Projects, Inc., the Owner's Project Manager for the Belmont High School Building Project, and Floyd Carmen, Belmont's Town Treasurer, have determined that the estimated cost for the 7-12 facility will be:

Estimated Project Cost: \$313.2 Million

Estimated MSBA Reimbursement: \$81.4 Million

Estimated Belmont Cost: \$231.8 Million (approximately 74%)

Predicated on these Project cost estimates, the real estate tax burden to Belmont's homeowners, based on a 30-year debt exclusion, will be \$184 per \$100K of assessed home value.

The BHSBC will continue to focus on finding cost-effective Project solutions that are fiscally responsible in both capital and operating costs.

There are still many steps to go in the Belmont High School Building Project process. The BHSBC now enters the Schematic Design phase of the Project, during which work will be done with the District and the MSBA to develop a comprehensive schematic design for the building.

Please visit the BHSBC website, [www.highschoolbuildingproject.org](http://www.highschoolbuildingproject.org), for the most up-to-date information on the Project. In addition, email [bhs-bc@belmont-ma.gov](mailto:bhs-bc@belmont-ma.gov) if you have any questions, comments, or would like additional information. The BHSBC encourages the community to remain involved, ask for clarification where needed, and be a part of the Belmont High School Building Project.