



DRACUT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Steven Stone
Superintendent of Schools

February 7, 2022

Re: School Building Update

Dear Campbell and Greenmont Parents/Guardians:

As you may be aware, for a number of years the district has been seeking state funding to address our aging elementary school buildings. Projects of such size require the town to seek significant funding support from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA). That work has most recently reaped benefits as demonstrated by the completion of roof projects at the Brookside and Englesby Elementary Schools.

A primary focus for a number of years has been the Campbell, given it still possesses original mechanical systems from its opening in 1973. The administration, with the support of the School Committee, Town Manager, and the Board of Selectmen, have submitted Statements of Interest (SOI) for complete overhauls of the Campbell each year for almost a decade. In two recent cycles, while the MSBA recognized the need to address the needs of the Campbell, their limited funding precluded the school from being selected for a building project.

As we worked through the SOI process each year for the Campbell, the Greenmont, which was built in 1927, continued to be elevated on our list of needs. During this latest process with the MSBA, we began to engage in conversations with them regarding the possibility of consolidating the needs of both schools into a larger, more expansive project to support families in east and central Dracut. Late Friday afternoon I was contacted by the MSBA and informed that the subcommittee responsible for recommending projects is including a potential consolidated Campbell/Greenmont project in its report to the MSBA Board of Directors.

What does this all mean? The MSBA Board will be meeting in early March to officially invite communities that have been recommended for building projects, into their grant program. A message that Dracut has been added to the MSBA meeting agenda and that a subsequent affirmative vote has been successful will signal the beginning of a multi-year process that would begin with a feasibility study and be followed by a number of actions including a vote by residents to determine whether to actually undertake a future construction project.



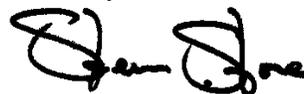
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That feasibility study would guide a decision that could result in a large renovation and/or expansion of the Campbell, or the construction of a new building somewhere in central/east Dracut. It is highly likely that whatever solution is settled upon, it would include a consolidation of the Campbell and Greenmont communities.

A formal invitation to participate in the MSBA grant program would initiate many future discussions, meetings, and communications to the community, and would involve a continuation of the successful collaborative efforts of the administration, School Committee, Town Manager and her administration, Selectmen, and the Permanent Building Committee of the town. I will be following up and providing updates as information becomes available. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Steven Stone
Superintendent of Schools



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