



Ayer Shirley Regional School District

May 9, 2018

Dear Ayer Shirley Regional School Community,

In January 2018, the Ayer Shirley Regional School Committee hired Flansburgh Architects to perform a comprehensive infrastructure audit of the Page Hilltop Elementary School (PH) in Ayer and the Lura A. White Elementary School (LAW) in Shirley. The goal of this study was to generate a report that would identify opportunities for short term repair and upgrade projects, as well as identify potential options for major renovations or new construction.

Throughout January and February, Flansburgh Architects and their subcontractors evaluated the structure and systems for each school. The results indicate "...both facilities are serviceable as schools and pose no safety concerns that would impact the ongoing operations as an educational facility." The report also indicates that many of the "...existing building systems for both schools are at the end of their useful life, and will need to be upgraded or replaced."

Over the last four years there have been substantial upgrades to the infrastructure and aesthetics of all four school buildings, and the majority of the work has been completed at the two elementary schools. The Ayer Shirley Regional School District does not operate on a deferred maintenance plan; any areas requiring repair are done so immediately. Additionally, the district has continued to replace classroom items such as carpet, window blinds, and student furniture, as well as paint walls and ceilings, all to provide an environment conducive to student learning. See a list of repairs and improvements to Page Hilltop and Lura A. White [here](#).

The second part of the Flansburgh report was to create design concepts should we decide to pursue large scale renovations or replacements of one or both elementary schools, coupled with actual costs in today's dollars. The drawings you will see in the report are based on Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) specifications for buildings with our student populations. The designs incorporate 21st Century Learning ideas, community use, and maximizing the amount of space reimbursable by the MSBA. It should be noted that these designs, while very detailed, are not final; a future building committee would be charged with evaluating all options and recommending a preferred design to the School Committee.

The MSBA operates programs to defray taxpayer costs of school upgrades and building projects. To “..ensure that the MSBA’s capital program funds are targeted towards projects and school districts that are ready and able to make the financial commitment and move forward in a timely manner...” the MSBA process is complex and can take years to navigate.

To that end, Dr. Malone and the leadership team will review the Flansburgh report and determine which recommended upgrades can be completed within the constraints of life expectancy and budget. Additionally, the School Committee will begin discussing the report starting with their May 16, 2018, meeting. Together, we will work to determine if one or more Statements of Interest will be submitted to the MSBA in early 2019.

Thank you for taking the time to review the Flansburgh report. Please do not hesitate to contact Superintendent Malone at mmalone@asrsd.org should you have further questions.

Thank you,
Ayer Shirley Regional School Committee