

**Feasibility Study Article
Town Meeting 2012**

What are the identified problems with Stoughton High School facilities?





Stoughton High School - 1940's electrical panel

2012



Stoughton High School - Steam system B1st boiler room

2012



Stoughton High School - Malfunctioning Univent, B200

2012

Facilities Master Plan - SHS and South School

South School and SHS

- Bullets indicate deficiencies that need to be addressed

Physical Plant			
	South	SHS	Notes
Windows	•		
Roof	•	•	
Soffits	•		
ADA compliance	•	•	SHS - A building; South - entire school
Univents (HVAC)	•	•	inconsistent heat forcing relocation of some services
Exposed cabling	•		
Cracked flooring	•	•	and buckling wood floors in the A building
Ceiling tiles	•	•	Broken, missing and patched
Water intrusion	•		SHS - A and B buildings, South - from courtyard
Fire alarms need upgrading	•		
Asbestos (flooring and window	•	•	
PA/clock system	•	•	
Boilers	•	•	original boilers
Elevator undersized		•	
Electrical system upgrades		•	A, B, and C buildings
Domestic hot water		•	
Exposed plumbing		•	

Misc. r Estimate to bring South School to ADA compliance exceeds 3.5 million dollars
 A building at SHS cannot be brought up to ADA compliance
 New roof for SHS estimated at approx 5 million dollars

Facilities Master Plan - SHS and South School

South School and SHS

- Bullets indicate deficiencies that need to be addressed

Space/Educational Obsolescence			
	South	SHS	Notes
Space			
Library/Media Center	•	•	SHS - media center should be able to serve multiple classes at same time
Office	•	•	
Clinic	•	•	
Gymnasium	•	•	SHS - phys ed space seriously undersized, inadequate second gym/weight training space, cannot host tournaments
Kitchen	•	•	
Classroom storage	•	•	
Services	•	•	SHS - school psychologist office in closet;
Guidance		•	
Classrooms		•	many classrooms undersized for today's equipment and needs
		•	No single space large enough for entire student body
Science labs outdated		•	additionally rooms that are not equiped for science are used for science classrooms
Departmental offices/prep space		•	Few departments have common teachers office/prep space
Conference rooms	•	•	SHS - need for additional conference rooms for office and guidance
Special Education services	•	•	SHS - need for office space; South - need for flexible spaces for providing services
Insufficient number of restrooms		•	
Condition of lockers		•	
Temperature controlled storage		•	Needed for storage of sensitive musical equipment

Misc. notes There is no space at either school large enough to hold the entire student body.

At the elementary level there is a need for additional flexible space that can serve as pull out space for services and for small group learning

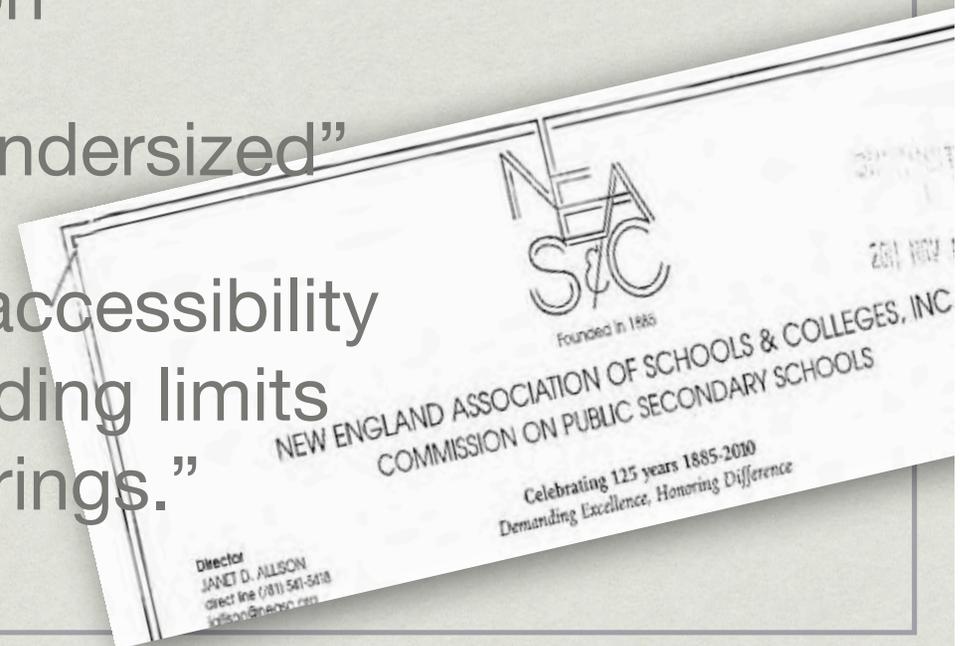
Both schools have a shortage of classroom storage space

The high school has very little teacher prep space or departmental common space. Additionally some departments do not have their classrooms in the same area of the building.

NEASC Evaluation Report

The New England Association of Schools & Colleges places Stoughton High School on formal accreditation “Warning Status” citing physical plant concerns that include:

- ✿ a facility that limits “the delivery of a high-quality education”
- ✿ classrooms that are “undersized”
- ✿ “lack of handicapped accessibility to fourth floor of A building limits classroom/course offerings.”



NEASC Evaluation Report, cont'd

“The poor condition of the facility that has extensive and chronic deterioration including but not limited to a leaking roof, loss of Guidance space in bad weather due to water damage, poor condition of outdoor areas, inadequate storage, many areas not handicapped accessible restricting programs for all students, outdated electrical panels, undersized gymnasium, outdated heating and ventilation systems.”



NEASC - Impact of Loss of Accreditation

- ✿ Reduces ability to attract and retain high-quality teachers
- ✿ Reduces status of SHS in eyes of colleges
- ✿ Decreases demand for housing
- ✿ Impacts negatively on town's bond rating and the school district's ability to secure competitive grant funds
- ✿ Reduces real estate values
- ✿ NEASC website:
http://cpss.neasc.org/about_accreditation/benefits/

Given these concerns, the Commission voted to place the school on warning for the Standards on Curriculum, School Resources for Learning, and Community Resources for Learning.

The Commission requests that school officials submit a Special Progress Report by August 1, 2012 indicating how the following recommendations have been addressed:

WHY DO WE NEED A FEASIBILITY STUDY?

- ✿ The Massachusetts School Building Authority requires a feasibility study as the first phase of any school building project after an invitation into the process.
- ✿ The School Building Authority will reimburse the town of Stoughton a minimum of 56.6% of the cost of the study. The Feasibility Study and schematic design is estimated to cost approximately \$1,000,000 with the actual cost to the town around \$430,000 or less depending on the number of options.
- ✿ The District must reply by August to the New England Association of Schools and Colleges about how it plans to address deficiencies in it's facilities:
 - submit an update on approval of funding from the Massachusetts School Building Authority to address the facilities and space issues
- ✿ Funding will send a strong message to the state regarding town support for a building/renovation project during application review.

WHY SHOULD WE DO THIS NOW?

- ✿ Avoid Special Town Meeting. The town will only spend the money if the School Building Authority invites the District into the school building process.
- ✿ No new construction of school facilities in 40+ years.
- ✿ Addressing the accreditation issue is critical to the residents of Stoughton as it has a direct impact on the quality of life and property values in town.
- ✿ High quality facilities attract and retain businesses and families to Stoughton.