

We, the School Committee and School Administration, need the help of parents and citizens who care about our schools. We are in dire need of a new high school. We need you to show your support to our legislators so that they can advocate for us to the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

### **Where We Are**

Recently a meeting and tour of Stoughton High School was organized for Stoughton's legislative delegation: Sen. Brian Joyce, Rep. Louis Kafka and Rep. William Galvin. Senator Brian Joyce's office arranged to have executives from the Massachusetts School Building Authority there also.

The meeting was organized to show our legislators and the team from the MSBA exactly what the conditions of the high school are. We want them to hear from high school administrators, teachers and former students how the outdated, deteriorated facility is constraining educational programming, curricula, and instruction.

Members of the School administration such as the SHS principal, superintendent, Science curricula coordinator, a teacher, School Committee members, municipal officials, a member of the Board of Selectmen, officials from the MSBA, and our legislators and their staff directors (one of whom is a SHS graduate) all came. We asked our legislators for support for a new high school and they offered their help to prioritize this project. We were asked to provide a little more information on how the high school facility is impacting instruction, scheduling, curricula and student achievement and we are preparing that information.

Due to the severe restraints of the high school facility and condition we are unable to deliver the 21st Century Education the students in our town deserve. We are forced to alter our curriculum, programs and instruction to fit an outdated facility.

For instance, we have only three science labs, only two of which have proper safety equipment for a chemistry lab; our gym is inadequate for any playoff games in several sports; there is no one place large enough to hold the entire student body; many classrooms are too small, Special Education spaces are inadequate (former storage areas); the Guidance Department is often unusable during a rainstorm; the front facade (Gale Associates Engineering report) of the high school is bowed and deteriorating due to water infiltration; NEASC, the school accrediting agency has put us on WARNING STATUS for the state of our facilities; the 2010 Facilities Master Plan report on town buildings commissioned by Town Meeting has detailed in excess of \$11 million worth of repairs to bring the high school back to it's 1923 and 1950 standards. Additional needed repairs including Asbestos removal, plumbing and pipe replacement, security upgrades, ADA compliance have added another \$14 million of

repairs, bringing the total to over \$24 million - and we would still have an outdated facility. Times have changed and we must also if we are to help educate our children and prepare for the 21st century.

The next steps are to provide the additional information requested to the MSBA officials and Sen. Joyce, Rep, Kafka and Rep. Galvin, to organize tours of the high school for parents of students so they can understand what the School Committee and administration is trying to do and what the problems with the high school facility are and to ask them to reach out to our legislators thanking them for their support and ask them to please continue their efforts on our behalf.

**Legislative Contact Information**

The Honorable William C. Galvin  
Massachusetts House of Representatives  
State House, Room 448  
Boston, MA 02133

**Phone:** 617-722-2582

**Email:**

[William.Galvin@mahouse.gov](mailto:William.Galvin@mahouse.gov)

The Honorable Louis L. Kafka  
Massachusetts House of Representatives  
State House, Room 185  
Boston, MA 02133

**Phone:**

617-722-2960

**Email:**

[Louis.Kafka@mahouse.gov](mailto:Louis.Kafka@mahouse.gov)

The Honorable Brian A. Joyce  
Massachusetts Senate  
State House, Room 109D  
Boston, MA 02133

**Phone:**

617-722-1643

**Email:**

[Brian.A.Joyce@masenate.gov](mailto:Brian.A.Joyce@masenate.gov)

**School Committee/Administration Contacts:**

Deborah Sovinee  
Feasibility Study Chair  
[D\\_sovinee@stoughtonschools.org](mailto:D_sovinee@stoughtonschools.org)

Joyce Hussein  
School Committee Chair  
Facilities Committee  
[J\\_hussein@stoughtonschool.org](mailto:J_hussein@stoughtonschool.org)

Dr. Marguerite Rizzi  
Superintendent of Schools  
[M\\_rizzi@stoughtonschools.org](mailto:M_rizzi@stoughtonschools.org)

**History**

**In 2009-10** The Town of Stoughton's Facility Master Plan Committee town-wide assessment of all town buildings. The Plan was accepted at the 2010 Town Meeting.

**May 2010** - Town Meeting accepts the Facilities Master Plan detailing repair costs for all town-owned buildings.

**October 2010** - School Committee forms the Facilities Committee on School Buildings to prioritize repairs for school buildings.

**December 2010** - School Committee forms Feasibility Study Committee composed of citizens from throughout town to explore renovating or rebuilding school buildings.

**March 2011** - Facilities Master Plan Committee on School Buildings recommends that the School Committee not spend any more money on South School and High School facilities -- except for life safety and emergency repairs.

**June 2011** - The Feasibility Study Committee recommends that the School Committee send Statements Of Interest (SOI) to the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

**October 2011** - The New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC), which accredits all public high schools, puts Stoughton High School on Warning Status, which means the District will lose its accreditation if it does not correct the deficiencies in its facilities. The School Committee votes to authorize the Superintendent to submit Statements of Interest on the South School and High School to the Massachusetts School Building Authority. The Feasibility Study Committee and the School Committee each vote to give the high school priority over the South School.

**January 2012** - SOI submitted

**May 2012** - After a presentation by the Feasibility Study Committee, Town Meeting votes 135-6 to appropriate \$1,000,000 for a Feasibility Study (which would result in schematic plans of various options for repairs, including a new high school) for Stoughton High School should we be invited into the process.

**March 2013** - SOIs submitted for repairs on three elementary school and for the high school and South Elementary again.

**July 2013** - SOIs on repair projects for three elementary schools are approved by the MSBA.

Since then, the Town of Stoughton has submitted, twice, Statements of Interest (SOIs - what the applications are called) to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) on the South School and Stoughton High School. The MSBA will begin reviewing the SOIs until January 2014. **It is imperative that we get on their agenda by then.**