

**NE Association of Schools &  
Colleges (NEASC)  
Accreditation Process and  
Maynard High School**

# What is NEASC?

- Voluntary accrediting organization
- 2,000 public and independent schools, colleges and universities.
- in the six New England States.
- in American/international schools in more than sixty nations worldwide.

# Accreditation: a Process of Systematic Improvement

- Voluntary, peer review process, engaging some 3,400 educators in the region on hundreds of reviews in any year.
- Relies on a 12- to 18-month self-study process undertaken in regular review cycles.
- Goals are school effectiveness, improvement and public assurance.
- Establishes a level of acceptable quality for all accredited institutions.

# Commission on Public Secondary Schools (neasc.org)

- 648 NE public secondary schools;  
of those, 252 are Mass.

## Process

- A 12-month Self-Study by the school and community (MHS 2000-02)
- On-site evaluation by a Peer Review team, (MHS April '02)
- Team drafts report;
- Chair edits and completes first draft.

# NEASC Process

- MHS Principal reviews Chair's draft.
- Commission votes (fall '02)
- Report: Commendations & Recommendations
  - Fall of '02 MHS placed on 'warning'
- Commitment to continuous improvement through required Follow Up activities.
- Special Report; Two Year, Five Year Reports.
- [tshttp://www.maynard.k12.ma.us/mps/supt/fac/default.aspx](http://www.maynard.k12.ma.us/mps/supt/fac/default.aspx)

# Standards for Accreditation

## neasc.org CPSS

- Teaching & Learning Standards
  - Mission & Student Learning
  - Instruction
  - Curriculum
  - Assessment of Student Learning

# Curriculum

“8. Instructional materials, technology, equipment, supplies, ***facilities***, staffing levels, and the ***resources of the library/media center*** shall be sufficient to allow for the implementation of the curriculum.”

# Standards for Accreditation

- Support Standards
  - Leadership & Organization
  - School Resources for Learning
  - Community Resources for Learning

# School Resources for Learning

“12. A wide range of materials, technologies, and other library/information services that are responsive to the school’s student population shall be available to students and faculty and utilized to improve teaching and learning.”

# Community Resources for Learning

“3. The school site and plant shall support and enhance all aspects of the educational program and the support services for student learning.”

“6. A planned and adequately funded program of building and site management shall ensure the appropriate maintenance, repair, and cleanliness of the school plant.”

# NEASC 'Probation'

- Jan 2006 MHS Placed Probation
- In danger of losing Accreditation due to inadequate facilities for teaching & learning.
- 9 Mass schools in this category.

<b>Athol</b>	<b>Haverhill</b>	<b>Southbridge</b>
<b>Beverly</b>	<b>Holbrook</b>	<b>Uxbridge</b>
<b>Bridgewater-Raynham</b>	<b>Maynard</b>	<b>Ware</b>
- Most are on for facilities issues, inadequate to support curriculum delivery.

# School Committee's Response

- Requested warrant for Facilities Study
- SC appointed > Facilities Advisory Council
- FAC final report to SC January 2007
  - Warrants: roof, library improvements, boiler, etc.

# NEASC letter of 3/29/07

- March 2007 Commission Meeting
  - “voted to continue school’s accreditation.”
  - MHS “remain probation for Standards on:
    - Curriculum
    - School Resources for Learning
    - Community Resources for Learning”
  - MHS “remain on probation until **all concerns** have been satisfactorily resolved.”

# NEASC letter of 3/29/07

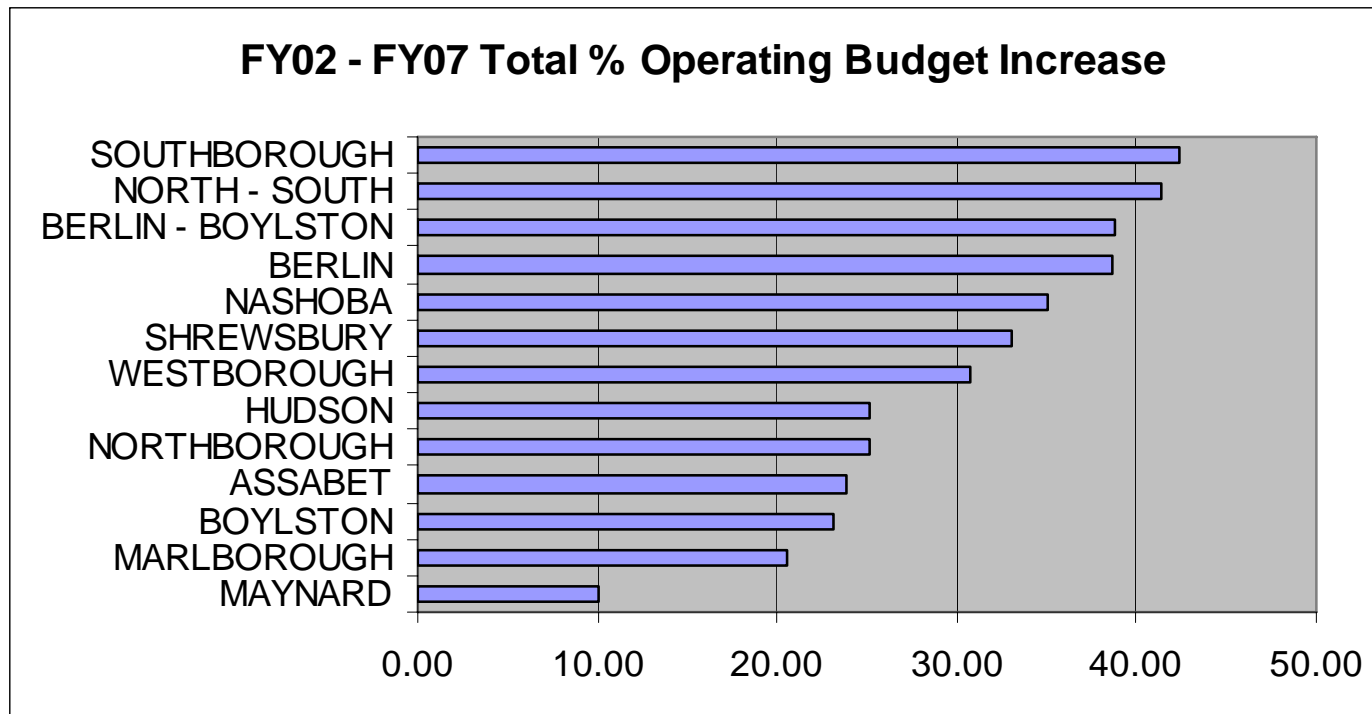
“...submit a Special Progress Report, due June 1, 2007...report results of the May 2007 Town Meeting to fund replacement of HS boiler, tank removal, some roof repair and improvements of media center resources.”

# NEASC letter of 3/29/07

“submit an additional Special Progress Report, due April 1, 2008...

- Confirm the expansion of the library
- Submit a long term plan, including that for funding, to fully resolve deficiencies related to the inadequate library/media center, science classrooms, locker rooms, ventilation, music room, and storage areas.
- Submit a schedule of additional short-term improvements to the facility until the long term plan related to the facilities is completed.”

# Why haven't we put more \$ into facilities?



# Conclusion

- MHS has significant and complex facility problems.
- NEASC is sounding an alarm.
- NEASC is not the problem; the facility is the problem.
- As a community our focus must be, not merely turning off the alarm, but solving the facilities issues.



**Massachusetts School Building Authority**

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*MSBA Process  
&  
Maynard Public School Plan*

Treasurer Tim Cahill, Chair  
Katherine Craven, Executive Director  
Maynard School Committee

# MSBA Introduction

- Chapter 208 of the Acts of 2004 created an independent public Authority and ended the former School Building Assistance Program operated by the Department of Education.
- The Authority is charged with:
  - Succeeding to the powers of the Department of Education, inheriting over \$11B in outstanding payments for 1156 projects authorized under the old SBA program
  - Achieving the effective management, planning and financial sustainability of the school building assistance program;
  - Revising regulations for a new program of grants for school construction projects subject to the availability of funds and a statutory cap, beginning in FY08

## MSBA Reform and Goals

- Create Consistent Affordable Funding
- Dedicated Revenue – 1Cent Sales Tax
- Create Centralized Process and Authority Oversight for Stewardship of how Commonwealth Funds are Expended Locally on School Projects
- Finish Waiting List – 428 Projects
- Fund New Grants Beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> 2008

# Statement of Interest

- **DEADLINE: July 31, 2007**
- This is a Pre-Application: describe the facilities problem, initial engagement of the Authority – **Maynard Completed - FAC!**
- **146** statements already submitted
- 78 different districts represented
- Over half the requests Elementary Schools
- Many requests are for roofs, boiler renovations, and other moderate repairs
- Include everything from overcrowding to obsolescence

# Criteria for New Projects

1. Health and Safety
2. Existing Severe Overcrowding
3. Loss of Accreditation
  - MHS 1 of 7
4. Prevent Future Severe Overcrowding
5. Increase Energy Conservation and Decrease Energy Costs
6. Short-term Enrollment Growth
7. Replace Obsolete Buildings
  - MHS Meets 50 Yr Requirement
8. Transition from Court Ordered Racial Balance Districts to Walk-to Districts

# The New Process Overview

## 1. Identify the Problem

- Local community identifies deficiencies in school facilities through the Statement of Interest process – **Maynard Completed via Facility Advisory Council Winter FY2006!**

## 2. Validate the Problem

- MSBA and local community work together to validate deficiencies identified – **Next Step Approve Joint Facility Assessment May ATM and Begin Work with MSBA Spring FY2007**

## 3. Evaluation of potential solutions

- MSBA and local community work in collaboration to identify potential solutions – **Continue Work with MSBA on Facility Study – Summer 2007**

## 4. Confirm the solution

- MSBA and local community agree on solution and appropriate course of action – **Continue Work MSBA & Engage Design Firm – Fall 2007**

## 5. Implement the agreed upon solution

- MSBA and local community continue collaboration through design and construction – **Maynard Vote Build New/Renovate MHS – ATM 2008**

# Community-MSBA Involvement at Each Step of Process

- ✓ Eligible Applicant and School Building Committee roles: definition and communication
- ✓ Statement of Interest: voted on locally by SC and Selectmen
- ✓ Pre-Study Review conference: agreement between MSBA and Community
- ✓ Educational Goals and Budget Review: formulated locally with community participation and discussed with MSBA
- ✓ Feasibility Study: Community controls the process within MSBA parameters
- ✓ Project Scope, Cost and Timeline: Need to be discussed locally once agreement with MSBA is reached on these items

# Maynard Approach

- Short Term Plan – May 2007 ATM
- Long Term Plan – May 2008 ATM
- Contingency Plans
  - Renovate w/o MSBA Funding
  - Build New w/o MSBA Funding

# Maynard Short Term Plan

- NEASC Special Progress Report Request June 1<sup>st</sup> 2007
- Action: May Town Meeting – Approve NEASC Warrant Articles
- From Taxation:
  - Article 45
    - MHS & MSB Joint Feasibility Assessment: \$20K
    - MHS Land Survey: \$12K
  - Article 46
    - MHS Roof Repairs: \$50K
    - MHS Oil Tank Removal: \$44K
    - MHS Library Improvements: \$150K
- From Debt Exclusion
  - Article 44
    - New MHS Boiler Addition: \$140K
- Total Appropriation \$416K
- If May TM Vote Favorable – NEASC Vote in Fall 2007 Continue MHS Accreditation FY2008 School Year
- No Disruption Student Services

# Maynard Long Term Plan

- NEASC Special Progress Report April 1<sup>st</sup> 2008
- Execute Quickly & Effectively with MSBA, NEASC & BOS on Following:
- Summer 2007 – MSBA Feasibility Assessment & Study Determine:
  - Repair & Renovate
  - Build New
- Fall 2007 –Engage Design Firm w/ MSBA
- Spring 2008 - Funding Mechanism Warrant Article for New or Renovated MHS
  - NEASC: Community Commitment to “FULLY” Resolve Deficiencies
  - MSBA: Pay 40%-80% Up Front of \$47M Total Cost
  - Maynard: Estimate \$25M New Building Solution
- By Spring 2008 - Complete Library Improvements
- No Disruption Student Services

# Maynard Contingency Plans

- If Maynard Voters Don't approve MSBA Recommendations:
- Additional Short Term Improvements w/o MSBA Funding: **\$15M Tax Over-Rides**
  - NEASC Requirements:
    - Library/Media Center
    - Science Classrooms
    - Locker Rooms
    - Ventilation
    - Music Room
    - Storage Areas
  - Operational Repairs:
    - Upgrade Electrical Service
    - ADA Compliance
    - New Roof
- Risk Loss Accreditation
- Major Disruption Student Services

# Maynard Contingency Plans

- If MSBA Determines MHS Is NOT Eligible for State Aid
- Continue Additional Short Term Improvements w/o MSBA Assistance:
  - \$15M As Shown Last Slide
- Build New or Renovate MHS w/o MSBA Assistance
  - Repair & Renovate: \$47M
  - Build New: \$47M
- Risk Loss Accreditation
- Disruption Student Services
- Most Expensive Solution