APS Facilities Needs 2015-2021

Cindy Starks
Facilities Chair
Arlington School Committee

The Needs - Elementary

- 17-20 Elementary Classrooms
 - -300 more students (300/20 = 15)
 - 6-9 for schools that are already overcrowded
 - 4 currently empty that can be used
 - starting next year
 - not in the schools where it is most needed

The Needs – Middle School

- 20 Classrooms
 - 350 more students
 - 14 regular classrooms (350/25=14)
 - 6 specialist classrooms
 - More gym space
 - More lunchroom space
 - More administrative space

The Needs - AHS

- We need to rebuild the High School
- 12/21/15 we find out if we are chosen for a rebuild to start next year
- MSBA will be involved in this and to stay at the top of the list, we cannot put in for any other school renovations

4 Big Questions Need to be Answered: 1.) Elementary Neighborhood Schools

- How important?
- Definition of neighborhood?
 - Can it be a part of town?
- Redistricting to put students where the classrooms are?
 - How much does this help and for how long?

4 Big Questions Need to be Answered:2.) Middle School Size

- Currently 7th largest in the state
- Make it a campus and own the size or break it up?
- Where to build?
 - Add to what we have
- Grade levels to put together should one be alone?

4 Big Questions Need to be Answered: 3.) Class Size/Teacher Load

- Class size is not a number, but a teacher load
 - All students are not equal in their need
 - Age
 - Needs
 - What is educationally sound?
 - What can we afford?
 - How do we define?
 - What do parents/voters want?
- How will we mitigate classrooms that exceed this teacher load?
 - New classroom
 - Add teachers, aides, student teachers
 - When does it have to be another classroom?

4 Big Questions Need to be Answered: 4.) Town Impact

- We need to take some of our town resources to ensure the quality of schools that voters want
- We know it will cost money
- We need to build somewhere what is the smallest impact on the other priorities our town has?

Tipping Points

School Year	School	Classrooms Needed	Other Space needed
16/17	Thompson	0-2	None
17/18	Thompson	4	Yes - undefined
	Ottoson	6	Yes - cafeteria
	Hardy	1-2	None
	Bishop	0-2	None
18/19	Ottoson	6	Yes – gym, admin
	Bishop	2-4	None
	Brackett	2	None
	Dallin	3-4	None
	Hardy	2-3	None
19/20	Ottoson	8	Yes - undefined

Looking at it another way

- Bring stressed elementary schools up to 24 classrooms each to enable them to hold 4 classes of each grade
 - This would mean we need to add 20:
 - Thompson: 6
 - Bishop: 6
 - Hardy: 3
 - Dallin: 3
 - Brackett: 2
- Some elementary schools will also need additional other space (gym, lunch, after school, specials, etc.)
- Add an additional 20 classes and additional space to the Ottoson

2 Educationally feasible ways to do this

- 1. Add on to the 5 elementary schools in place and then for the middle school do:
 - Add on in place, make a campus (Ottoson/Crusher Lot)
 - Build/open another middle school (Gibbs, other space)
 - 3. Move 8th grade to the AHS campus (if we get to rebuild that)
- Remove 5th grade from the elementary schools and create a 5/6 school and a 7/8 school 1 can stay at Ottoson, build the other
 - Crusher Lot/Ottoson grounds
 - AHS
 - Gibbs

Need to pick a high level strategy for our schools moving forward and then make the short term decisions on what to do from that.

Timeline Requirements

- In order to build permanently anywhere by the 17/18 school year, funds need to be approved at the January 2016 special town meeting
- Modulars can be in place with a year's notice

Our timeline (so far)

- December
 - 9: SETF (School Enrollment Task Force)
 - 10: Full School Committee
 - Get input from school committee on 4 big questions
 - Discussion of enrollment stresses, solutions, and recommendations
 - 14: Community Relations meeting to plan January parent/voter forum on schools
 - 16: Facilities subcommittee meets
 - 17: Full School Committee
 - 18: New McKibben numbers from Mr. McKibben
 - 21: MSBA announcement on AHS
 - 22: Next meeting of the SETF
- January
 - 7: Parent/Voter forum on schools
 - 14: Full School Committee
 - 25: Town Meeting

Other questions that need to be answered

- Complete solution costs and plans
- Decision timelines for each option
- Where and when will the stress hit each school?
 - This needs refining
- Tonight: High level recommendations from the school committee on how to move forward and what to take back to the School Enrollment Task Force