



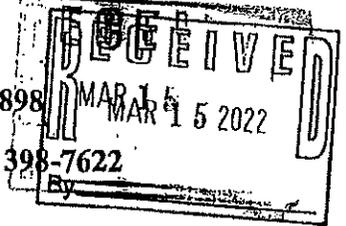
Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District

Administration Center
296 Station Avenue

South Yarmouth, Massachusetts 02664-1898

Telephone (508) 398-7600

Fax (508) 398-7622



March 15, 2022

Dear Members of the Dennis Board of Selectmen,

I am pleased to let you know that the construction of the new Dennis Yarmouth Intermediate Middle School continues to be progressing on time. We are scheduled for substantial completion in mid-October 2022. This will allow us to move staff and students into the new school after the December 2022 school break. With this in mind we will need to develop a plan together to successfully turn the building back to the town. We look forward to meeting with you to develop the plan that supports both the district and the town.

Recently, I was asked about the possible reuse of Wixon to house our PreK-3 students that are currently at the Ezra H. Baker School. Permit me to share the following thoughts:

- The facilities at Wixon are not developmentally appropriately sized for our PreK-3 students, especially for our PreK population. We are required to have the appropriately sized bathroom facilities as determined by the office of Early Education and Care.
- The playground facilities are not developmentally appropriate for this age group. At Baker we have a special playground for our Early Education and Kindergarten students.
- The enrollment of Baker has been declining slightly over time, so the space available at Baker is currently sufficient. (FY13-408 students; FY18-349 students; FY22-305 students)
- A considerable amount of money has been spent on the renovation of Baker in order to keep the school habitable and safe. Here is a list of the repairs that have been completed in the last ten years.
 - Roof and windows
 - New trusses over the gymnasium
 - Renovation of old locker room to a related arts suite (Art Room, Music Room, Library, and Spanish Room)
 - Handicap Accessibility from lower parking lot
 - New elevators
 - New hallway flooring
 - Hallway painting

Empowering each student to achieve excellence with integrity in a changing world

- Ongoing general maintenance
- Security-Airlock Entryway
- Asbestos abatement
- At Wixon there would be a significant amount of asbestos abatement work that would need to be completed in order to improve the conditions for students. This is partially what led us to the decision not to renovate. It would simply cost more to renovate than to build new. This is the reason MSBA supported our decision to build new with a 57.68% reimbursement rate.

There is a need for Early Childhood space across the district, so if the Wixon School were to be renovated or another space built on the property, then the District could partner with the town to run the space. We are hearing that there may be some state or federal money coming available to create an Early Childhood Center in the near future. If this were to come to fruition, we would not need the entire Wixon space. Again, you may find it more cost effective to build on the property and remove the Wixon building from the property. These ideas would need to be explored and analyzed.

Wixon has a plethora of problems. The courtyard leaks into the library often when it rains. We have never been able to solve that problem. The heating system needs to be replaced. In addition to the asbestos, these are just two of some very costly repairs that are needed to improve Wixon for use by students of any age.

We look forward to our continued work together. Please let us know how we can help in the transition of the property back to the town.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely yours,


Carol A. Woodbury
Superintendent of Schools