

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING QUESTION OF THE WEEK



Week 5:

How Would a New Elementary School to Replace Foster Improve Services to the Community?



The current Foster Elementary School has outlived its useful life and no longer meets the needs of Hingham students, teachers, and staff. The school proposed to replace Foster includes design elements that will provide a 21st-century educational experience that vastly improves student learning conditions and achieves the goals of Hingham’s educational program. In addition to offering a modern, reliable, and efficient physical plant, the proposed school design:

Provides ample classrooms that offer a high-quality learning environment and meet state space guidelines. These will be arranged in grade-level neighborhoods and include common areas to enable project-based learning and collaboration. Roof-mounted light wells will allow abundant natural light into the common areas to further support and enhance the overall learning setting for students.



Supports all-school gatherings and large events with appropriately-sized gymnasium, cafetorium and library/media center. These will allow for athletic events, performances, and group learning opportunities that can include all students.

Provides outdoor facilities that will enrich the overall experience of students. These include tennis courts, a softball field, two “outdoor classrooms” and three play areas - upper tier, lower tier, and Pre-K. These spaces will also allow for community use after school hours and on weekends.





Provides space to support several additional learning resources, including:

- Dedicated classrooms to serve the robust elementary-level music program.
- Expansion of the Integrated Preschool Program to support increased demand for early childhood education programming.
- Language-based programming to improve early childhood literacy and language skills.
- A Therapeutic Learning Center to address the growing need for social and emotional support at the elementary level.
- A Multi-purpose room that includes maker space and will house the District's field science program as well as the expansion of the "Kids in Action" program. This space will also enable non-school organizations to deliver education and enrichment services to Foster school students and the larger Hingham community.