

James Adams
Superintendent of Schools



Ashland Public Schools
Central Administration Offices

Office of the Superintendent
Tel: 508-881-0150
Fax: 508-881-0161

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Dear Ashland Community,

As you may be well aware, the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) has agreed to partner with the Town of Ashland and the Ashland Public Schools to address key facility deficiencies of the David Mindess Elementary School. This is fantastic news as the MSBA provides a substantial reimbursement to communities for school building/renovation projects. In the coming weeks, months, and years, we will be examining the needs of our students, the school, and our community. With the help of State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg, and the support of Senator Karen Spilka, and the MSBA, we have an opportunity to renovate or replace the David Mindess Elementary School, which was originally built in 1954.

The first step in the process is to create a School Building Committee. This Committee will oversee the entire planning, design, and construction process. If you are interested in serving on this Committee, please send a letter of interest to **Mr. Jim Adams, Superintendent of Schools, 87 West Union Street no later than March 16, 2018**. Members of the Committee will be chosen based on skill set and/or a lottery system and who meet the requirements as set forth by the MSBA. Citizens with experience in architecture, engineering, project management and large construction projects and a strong commitment to the Ashland community are encouraged to submit a letter of interest. The final make-up of the Committee will be recommended for approval to the Board of Selectmen through the School Committee.

In the first phase of the MSBA process, the School Building Committee will partner with an engineering firm, a project manager, and an architect to conduct a Feasibility Study. This assumes Ashland is accepted into this phase of the project in January 2019. The comprehensive study will evaluate the school's structural, mechanical and programmatic deficiencies, survey the school's campus, develop enrollment projections, and identify a shared vision for the future of the David Mindess Elementary School. The Feasibility Study, which will take 12-24 months to complete, is anticipated to cost between \$750,000-\$1,000,000. Required citizen votes will need to happen within the next year, and quite possibly as soon as the May 2 Town Meeting and May 15 election. The cost of the Feasibility Study is subject to reimbursement from the MSBA at a rate between 30-50%. The exact percent is not known at this time.

At the conclusion of the Feasibility phase, the Ashland community will be asked to support a renovation or the building of a new elementary school building. The anticipated time for community support is May 2021. As noted above, the project would be subject to a significant reimbursement from the MSBA.

You will have an opportunity to learn more about the project and the process over the coming months, including open house events at the David Mindess School. Please visit the <https://sites.google.com/a/ashland.k12.ma.us/mindess-school-building-project/> for key updates and other helpful information.

Be well,

James E. Adams, Superintendent of Schools