1. WHAT ARE SOME ISSUES WITH CURRENT BUILDINGS?

- LACK OF NATURAL LIGHT
  Many of the classrooms at Wildwood & Fort River School do not have windows.

- OUTDATED HEATING/Cooling EQUIPMENT

- QUAD SET-UP
  Four classes share one classroom divided by temporary walls.

- MOISTURE ISSUES IN CURRENT SCHOOLS
  Teachers report unhealthy environment at Wildwood & Fort River.

I need more facts.
Well, here is some information we collected.

In response to "The physical environment of classrooms in this school supports teaching and learning":

- 96% of Crocker Farm teachers agreed
- 24% of Wildwood teachers agreed
- 9% of Fort River teachers agreed (ranking 990th out of 992 Massachusetts schools that completed the survey)
- 83% of Massachusetts elementary school teachers agreed

In response to "Teachers and staff work in a school that is environmentally healthy":

- 87% of Crocker Farm teachers agreed
- 25% of Wildwood teachers agreed
- 18% of Fort River teachers agreed
- 72% of Massachusetts elementary school teachers agreed

Hm, so what does this project entail?

Let's take a look here.
THE TWIN SCHOOL DESIGN

2

WHAT ARE “CO-LOCATED” SCHOOLS?

Two schools that share a building; each with own principal, teacher teams, and identity; Milton and Acton MA, two high achieving districts, built co-located schools that have thrived.

& where have they been found to be successful?

School A

3

HOW WILL THE PLAY AREAS WORK?

Each school will have its own playground with safe, rubber surfacing to reduce injuries. In addition, each will have a ball field and hard-top play area.

School B

Of course!

Ok. Are there any benefits?
What are the educational benefits of the new building?

1. Natural light in all classrooms
2. Energy-efficient HVAC system that regularly circulates air for excellent indoor air quality
3. Real walls between classrooms so students can learn
4. Makerspace and outdoor classroom will promote hands on science learning

That's great but what about equity?

Well, here is what we know.

How does this plan address equity challenges?

1. End bussing of special education students away from siblings and neighbors
2. End bussing of low-income students away from neighbors
3. ELL newcomer program to best meet their needs
4. Increase the number of preschool seats for low-income students
The new building will be LEED Silver certified, using less water and energy.

Efficient HVAC system with a one year payback of energy/operational savings $\$\$\$\$

Rain garden

Solar arrays

Rainwater cistern for garden irrigation

Here is what the gardens would like
Crocker Farm will become an early childhood learning center for the town, grades PreK-1.

A team of early childhood educators from the district developed a vision with a focus on making the entire school developmentally appropriate for students between 3 and 7 years old.

What are the implications, and do we know if this has worked in other districts?

Over 70 districts in Massachusetts have early childhood centers, such as Weston, South Hadley, Belchertown, and East Longmeadow. Windsor, CT, a high achieving, diverse district, made a change to this model five years ago and has found it very successful for all students.
It took 7 years of applying to be accepted into state process which subsidizes cost of project.

The state will cover over 51% of costs (over $34 million).

The town share ($32.7 million) will resolve issues at both Wildwood and Fort River as less than the cost of renovating or rebuilding one of the schools without MSBA funding that is tied to this project.

The reconfiguration will result in $450,000 in annual operation savings.

And, research has found that passing school infrastructure projects increase home values.

Well Ok. This is all very exciting. What will it look like?
Here's a sneak peak of the New Schools!