

MSBA SOI PROCESS INFORMATION



AMHERST SCHOOL COMMITTEE
JANUARY 7, 2019



**Massachusetts School
Building Authority**
*Funding Affordable, Sustainable, and Efficient Schools
in Partnership with Local Communities*

PRIMARY CONCERNS ABOUT WILDWOOD'S AND FORT RIVER'S INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Building Conditions:** The buildings need significant investment to continue to be used as school buildings; nearing the end of expected lifespan of school buildings that have not undergone significant renovation (MSBA estimate: 50 years)
- **Safety:** The buildings do not meet current expectations for safety; standards and planning around this were very different in 1970 (compared to 2019)
- **Educational Challenges:** Open classrooms impinge on our ability to provide a high quality education; many accessibility problems that impact vulnerable students, staff and visitors

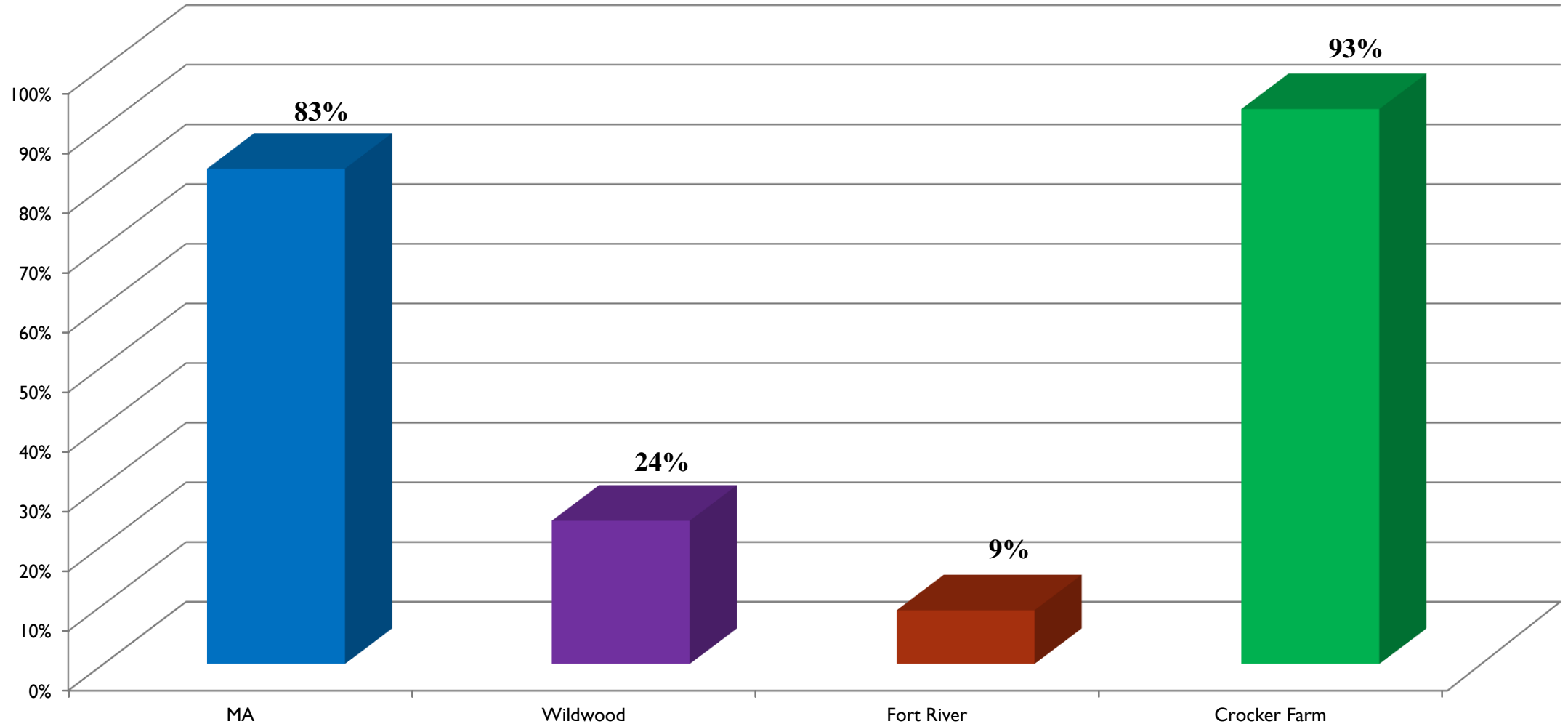
SPECIFIC AREAS OF CONCERN

- Open Classroom Design (little acoustic privacy)
- ADA Compliance (access)
- Safety
 - External Doors
 - Distance from Entry to Office Space
- Univents (inefficient and outdated HVAC system)
- Lack of Natural Light in Many Classrooms
- Small Classroom Spaces (due to open classroom design)
- Electrical Panels (safety/compliance)
- High-cost and Inefficient Energy Use
- Roof Condition/Age
- Cooling Systems
- Building Envelope

TEACHERS' VIEWS OF WILDWOOD AND FORT RIVER

Data on following slide is from the 2014 TELL Survey that was completed by teachers in all districts in the Commonwealth

% of Teachers who Agree that: “The physical environment of classrooms in this school supports teaching and learning.”



WHICH CONCERNS CAN BE ADDRESSSED VIA SHORT-TERM CAPITAL PLANNING?

Concerns that can be addressed (*with significant capital funding*)

- Roofs
- Exterior doors (safety)
- Univents/HVAC (mostly)
- ADA/Access (somewhat)
- Cooling (somewhat)

Concerns that cannot be addressed (*even with significant capital funding*)

- Open Classroom Design
- Classroom Size
- High-cost and Inefficient Energy Use
- Safety of Main Entry
- ADA/Access (because of Open Classroom design)
- Lack of Natural Light in Many Classrooms
- Cooling (fully)

AMHERST MSBA HISTORY

- 2007-2012: Multiple Statements of Interest (SOI's) submitted for Fort River and Wildwood Schools; none were accepted
- 2013 (November): MSBA accepted Amherst's SOI for Wildwood School
- 2013-2017: Building project developed; failed to receive all required local approvals to proceed to construction
- 2018: SOI's submitted for both Fort River and Wildwood. Neither SOI was accepted

MSBA FEEDBACK

The MSBA shared that for future Amherst SOI's to be accepted, they would be looking for consensus from the community on what the Town wants to do (and not do) as a result of the SOI to be included, formally, in the Statement of Interest.

MSBA PROCESS

- New SOI's are accepted by the MSBA until April 12, 2019
- SOI's need to be formally voted by the Amherst School Committee and the Amherst Town Council
- Statements of Interests should not include decisions/desires about several items based on how the thorough MSBA process is structured:
 - Whether new construction or an addition/renovation is preferred
 - A defined site that would be the best for the school
 - Who the architects should be
 - Specific design details or a complete educational plan

ENGAGEMENT THOUGHTS: COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS

- Schedule 9 listening sessions in the next month, starting the week of January 21*
 - 3 sessions, one in each Amherst elementary school, geared toward current and future parents/guardians
 - 3 sessions, location TBD, for broader community
 - 3 sessions, one in each Amherst elementary school, specifically for school staff members
- Ask two community leaders (who were on different sides of prior building project) to co-facilitate the sessions with the Superintendent
- Sessions would be “light” on presentation; mostly focused on soliciting/understanding the key priorities of stakeholders
- Return to the Amherst School Committee meeting on February 26 with a report from the sessions and proposed next steps

**Session information shared broadly through all staff/family emails, Amherst Bulletin advertisement, Town Council communication, social media, etc.*

PROPOSED VOTING SCHEDULE FOR 2019 SOI

- March 4: Superintendent presentation/recommendation & School Committee discussion
- March 11: School Committee discussion & potential vote
- March 18: *Proposed* Town Council review
- April 1: *Proposed* Town Council vote