

To Accompany the May 2023 Needham Town Meeting Warrant
Article 12 FY2023 Operating Budget Item 20: Minuteman Regional High School Assessment

Summary Minuteman Regional High School Update For the May 2023 Needham Town Meeting

Greetings Needham Town Meeting members! This document is a snapshot of important developments at the Minuteman Regional High School whose nine-member-town district includes Needham. Minuteman is a Career/Technical High School with career offerings ranging from Carpentry to BioTechnology in addition to the usual high school programs of academics, arts, sports, etc. You can find details about the Minuteman school at its website: www.minuteman.org.

Key highlights of the 2022/2023 academic year include the following:

- There has been a continuation of the dramatic increase in enrollment by member town students.
- The anticipated enrollment from Needham for next year is 44 students, up from 31 last year.
- Our three new synthetic fields (including lighting for nighttime use) are now fully usable.
- The School Committee/Administration have continued the process of increasing Minuteman's capacity from 628 to 720 students without any increase in member town debt.
- Dr. Kathleen Dawson started as Minuteman superintendent on July 1, 2022. She is nearing completion of her first year in that role.

Notes On Minuteman Capacity/Enrollment

The design capacity of the new Minuteman school is 628 students. However, over the last few years, the number of in-district applicants has exceeded school capacity. In order to avoid excessive waiting lists the Minuteman Administration and School Committee have been working to increase school capacity. We expect to have about 720 students in the next school year. The challenge is to accommodate this increased number of students without any decline in education quality. Part of our strategy is the reconstructing/repurposing of a campus building, known as the North building, which will enable increased school capacity. A substantial portion of the work on constructing the North building is being performed by Minuteman students. The new facility should be ready for educational use during the next school year. The construction/repurposing of the North building is being accomplished without imposing additional debt on our member towns.

Final Comments

For a deeper dive, including budget/finance information, please check out Superintendent Dawson's detailed presentation which can be found on the Town Meeting website: *Detailed Minuteman Superintendent's Update For May 2023 Needham Town Meeting .pdf*. The data in that report is as of March 23, 2023, so some of the information may be slightly out of date.

I thank you for the continuing strong support and warm reception for the Minuteman district which has been amply demonstrated by Needham parents, students, and town officials.

Jeff Stulin
Needham Representative to the Minuteman School Committee
April 2023