



## **Millis Middle/High School MSBA Opportunity**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

Q. What is the MS/HS Project?

A. The Town of Millis has been invited to participate in a grant process with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) based on a Statement of Interest (SOI) submitted in 2021. The SOI was submitted to ease the financial burden of major system replacements and repairs needed in the building.

Q. What is the MSBA?

A. The Massachusetts School Building Authority is a government authority, created to assist in the building and renovation of affordable, sustainable, energy efficient and educationally appropriate school buildings. With a dedicated revenue stream of one penny of every dollar of the state's 6.25% sales tax, the MSBA collaborates with municipalities to equitably invest in right-sized solutions to create safe, sound and sustainable learning environments. To learn more please visit:

<https://www.massschoolbuildings.org/index.php/about>

Q. What is the benefit of working with the MSBA?

A. The MSBA will reimburse between 45-50% of all eligible costs of the feasibility study, as well as the future building project, should the Town approve the funding in the required timeline. Town approval of feasibility study funding is required by March 28, 2023. In addition to funding, the MSBA has a proven process of renovating and building schools, with guidelines and requirements at every milestone. The MSBA structure ensures that each building in their program is both educationally appropriate and fiscally responsible, protecting the investment of both the State and the Town.

Q. Why perform a feasibility study now?

A. Repairs at the Middle/High school are coming due as systems are beyond their useful life. The Town will be faced with those costs with or without MSBA involvement. With the invitation from the MSBA, Millis has the opportunity for the state to fund 45-50% of the costs, while addressing both system and building needs to support 21st century learning.

Q. What does the feasibility study include?

A. As an outcome of the feasibility study the Town will receive multiple options to address facility and educational needs at the MS/HS as well as:

- Schematic designs for each option
- Construction estimates for each option
- Project Management services for the length of the project
- Design/Engineer services to design and scope options
- Community outreach throughout the project
- All documentation required by the MSBA

Q. Why is the cost \$1.3 million?

A. The \$1.3 million cost estimate was determined after consulting with the MSBA, an external consultant and following a review of recent, similar projects in the MSBA program. The \$1.3 million will fund the following:

- \$260k Project Management Fees (20%)
- \$845k Design/Engineer Fees (65%)
- \$130k Environment Studies (10%)
- \$65k Contingency(5%)

Q. What are the current MS/HS facility needs?

A. Approximately \$8.5 million in repairs have been identified at the MS/HS. These needs include a \$5.6 million HVAC system replacement and a full roof replacement estimated at \$2.9 million. In addition, based on facility studies, there are additional needs to address security and technology upgrades as well as space constraints.

Q. Does this project need to happen now?

A. With the systems and roofing past their useful life, it is a certainty that these items will need replacement. An MSBA building project timeframe is 6 years from start to finish. To lessen the financial burden on the Town, and to gain the maximum value of tax dollars spent, leveraging this opportunity for State funding ensures that the Town does not bear the entire burden of the \$8.5 million in repairs, that will not include any educational benefit.

Should the Town decline funding for the feasibility study Millis will be removed from the program and will lose the funding opportunity. The Town will then resubmit annually in an attempt to be invited into the program. The Clyde Brown School project took 5 years of submissions before an invitation was offered. During the resubmission time frame the Town will likely be faced with the need to fund one or both of the repair items, estimated at \$8.5 million, without additional funding from the State.

Q. Where can I go to learn more?

A. If you have additional questions please email [schoolcommittee@millisschools.org](mailto:schoolcommittee@millisschools.org). In addition, presentations will be held on 10/12 at the Finance Committee Meeting, 10/17 at the Select Board meeting, and at all School Committee meetings (10/25 and 11/8) leading up to Town Meeting on 11/10.