

**Q. Is there more or less space in the current Fox Hill School or in the new proposed Fox Hill building?**

A. The old Fox Hill has 25 full size classrooms and two portable classrooms (no sinks) which are failing - plus art. The new Fox Hill will have 28 full size classrooms, plus smaller classrooms and additional spaces for learning - plus art, music, STE. The existing building is about 64,000 square feet and the new building will be about 91,000 sq feet. That is 50% larger than the old building.

	Existing Fox Hill (64,400 square feet)	Proposed Fox Hill (91,000 square feet)
# Average students per classroom	18 Students	18 Students
Full Size Classrooms	25 Full Size Classrooms	28 Full Size Classrooms
Plus Additional Spaces	2 temporary portable classrooms  (not included in classroom count)	Multiple specialized instructional spaces  (not included in classroom count)
Plus Art / Music / Science Tech Engineering (STE)*  *proposed Fox Hill only	Full size art room Music (half size classrooms)  (not included in classroom count)	Full size art room Full size music room Full size STE  (not included in classroom count)
School Capacity	450 students	504 students



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**Q. Why do I keep hearing the new building will only be for 325 students?**

- A. The Massachusetts School Building Authority predicts that our ENROLLMENT needs for Fox Hill based upon their projected enrollment will be only 325 general education students by 2028 when the building is set to open. This calculation includes elementary classrooms across all elementary schools in the district. ENROLLMENT space does not mean the CAPACITY of the school. The capacity of the school is based upon the number of students that will fit in a school based on the number of full-size classrooms. The proposed school can effectively accommodate about 500 students.

**Q. What are the extra classrooms for?**

- A. In order to build a facility larger than the school required for 325 students, Dr. Conti worked closely with MSBA to provide extra classroom space initially for districtwide Special Education programming. This additional classroom space provides flexibility for increased enrollments into the future, if needed. Should the Fox Hill area have an unexpected increase in students, there is space for those students. For a frame of reference, Memorial School, an earlier MSBA project, was built for 500 students. The Memorial School is 85,000 square feet - smaller than the proposed Fox Hill School at 91,000 square feet.

**Q. How many students would the new building hold? What is the real capacity of the building?**

- A. We try to stay at an average of 18 students in a classroom on average  
28 classrooms (excluding STEM, Art and Music) X 18 students = 504 student capacity\*

\*Current enrollment is around 440 general education students plus about 15 LABBB Collaborative students.

**Q. Do you plan to redistrict families out of the Fox Hill district when opening the new school?**

- A. Not currently. With the large size of the new building and declining enrollment, we do not foresee a need to redistrict. Balancing student enrollment is reviewed every year. Our objective is to minimize changes to school enrollment areas. If there are changes, these changes typically take place over several years.

**Q. Why did you not do Burlington High School first?**

- A. We tried for 12 years to obtain state funding for BHS. However, MSBA did not accept us into their program. The MSBA considered the Fox Hill needs more critical. So, MSBA accepted Fox Hill into the state grant program and ultimately approved the design and funding agreement presented at Town Meeting. Even though the high school has not



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been accepted in the state grant program, we are in the feasibility stages for BHS, evaluating the needs and determining how to best address those needs. The funding to address Burlington High School is on the district's long-term facilities planning document for 2027.

**Q. Why did you decide to keep Pine Glen open and not combine it with Fox Hill?**

- A. Simply put, Pine Glen is in good shape. It would be imprudent to close a building with many years of life left in it. The cost would have been much higher for the taxpayers. The families and neighbors, as well as staff, in both the Fox Hill and the Pine Glen districts did not want to be combined. Combining the schools would have resulted in an uncharacteristically large, 3 story school, the size of MSMS, bringing additional traffic and an elementary setting unlike what Burlington has provided for decades. Also, maintaining four elementary building sites protects the Town for future growth. We have already given up Wildwood and Meadowbrook (Mount Hope.)

**Q. What will the cost of the project be to the average taxpayer?**

- A. The average tax bill will be approximately \$217 higher per year for approximately 25 years, or \$50 a quarter for the average home. Similar to the Police Station, this amount will remain the same for the length of the bond. The annual town operating budget may increase but not the debt service on the building projects.

**Q. What if Town Meeting does not support the funding for the proposed Fox Hill?**

- A. Essentially a negative vote ends the partnership with MSBA including their commitment to contribute \$31 million to the project. Burlington will need to begin the four-year MSBA process again from the beginning without any guarantee of financial support. In short, the need to replace Fox Hill remains and only gets more expensive. In the meantime, we will need to request funding for the required repairs and upgrades to Fox Hill which our experts estimated to be equal to or more than the proposed new construction with MSBA reimbursement, take longer, and be much more disruptive to student learning.

