

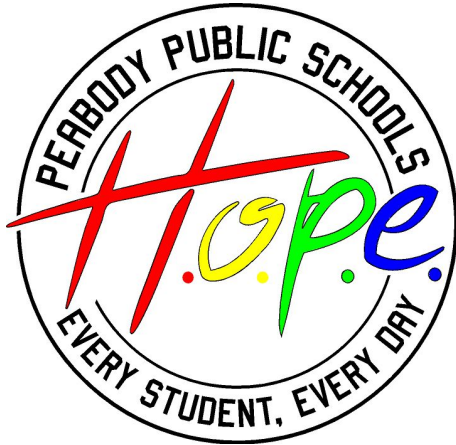
PEABODY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*"Education - A debt due from present
to future generations"* – GEORGE PEABODY, 1852

Community Meeting

Center School

September 27, 2023



Center School Building Committee

- Ted Bettencourt, Mayor
- Joe Amico, School Committee
- Jarrod Hochman, School Com.
- Julie Daigle, City Counselor
- Dan Doucette, Purchasing Agent
- Jim Hafey, Facilities Director
- Susan Petradelis, Parent
- Diana Ricardo, Parent
- Josh Vadala, Superintendent
- Mark Higgins, Asst. Supt.
- Sara Almeida, Principal
- Nino Furnari, Asst. Principal
- Emily Sakelakos, Teacher
- Colleen White, Teacher
- Eric Blake, PFT

Agenda

- **Rationale for closure 2024-2025**
- **Work completed - Summer 2023 and Scope of Work**
- **Current Demographics**
- **Relocation Options 2024-2025**
- **Process for School Selection**
- **Next steps**
- **Questions**

Rationale for Closure 2023–2024

- **MSBA will not allow 2 projects at the same time**
- **PVMHS will be the next new school in Peabody**
- **Realistically, a new Center School will not be completed for about 7–10 years.**
- **The current heating and electrical systems will not last 10 years without significant renovations.**
- **Scope and timeline require relocation of students.**

Work Completed in Summer 2023

- Abatement of floor tiles with ACM
- Replacement of floor tiles in main building
- Air quality testing
- Information and reports on website



Scope of Work for 2024-2025

- Heating System Upgrades
- Electrical Upgrades
- Ceiling Tile Replacement
- Bathrooms and plumbing
- Roof work

Current Demographics

- **Enrollment 2022–2023: 446 students**
- **Open Enrollment:**
 - 48 students (spring 2023)
 - 25–30 Kindergarten students (summer 2023)
- **Current Enrollment: 349 students**
 - 275 students K–4 to be relocated in 2024
- **155 Current Bus Students**

Relocation Options 2024 - 2025

Option 1: Move Integrated PreSchool to Centennial

- **Benefits: 150 seats at McCarthy for Center School**
 - Central location for PreSchool
- **Drawbacks: Cost of buildout prohibitive**
 - Property owners want long term lease (10-15 yrs)
- **Conclusion: Not a viable option**

Relocation Options 2024 - 2025

Option 2: Relocate Center students into existing classroom space in other 7 elementary schools

- **Benefits: Mathematically, we have enough seats across the district to do this**
- **Drawbacks: Center students spread across too many schools. Transportation a major challenge.**
- **Conclusion: Not the best option**

Relocation Options 2024 - 2025

Use of the Annex

- **Annex classrooms require less work than classrooms in the main building**
- **Work can be completed over the summer**
- **10 classroom spaces including student bathrooms**
- **Separate entrance from main building**

Relocation Options 2024 - 2025

Option 3: Relocate grades 4 and 5 to Annex

- **Benefits:** Allow older students to stay at Center
- **Drawbacks:** Annex classrooms built for younger students. Splitting up siblings. No gym, kitchen or main office. Transportation still a major challenge.
- **Conclusion:** Not a viable option

Relocation Options 2024 - 2025

Option 4: Keep students in K and 1 in the Annex

- **Benefits:** Allow some students to stay at Center
- **Drawbacks:** Incoming K students have never attended Center. Splitting up siblings. No gym, kitchen or main office. No space for specialist teachers. Transportation still a major challenge.
- **Conclusion:** Not a viable option

Relocation Options 2024 – 2025

Option 5: Relocate Integrated PreSchool to the Annex

- **Benefits: 150 seats at McCarthy for Center School**
 - Majority of Center Students in 2–3 schools
 - Keep Siblings and Neighborhoods together
 - Transportation similar to current configuration
 - Central location for PreSchool
- **Conclusion: Preferred Option**

Process for School Selection 2024 - 2025

Priorities:

- **Keep siblings together (more than 60 sets)**
- **Keep Neighborhoods together**
- **Provide transportation to newly assigned school**
- **Offer options through open enrollment process**

Process for School Selection 2024 - 2025

Process

- All students will be assigned a new neighborhood school for 2024-2025
- Transportation will be provided to assigned school
- Center students given priority for Open Enrollment
 - Transportation NOT provided for open enrollment
- Individual meetings are encouraged

Schools

Burke

West

McCarthy

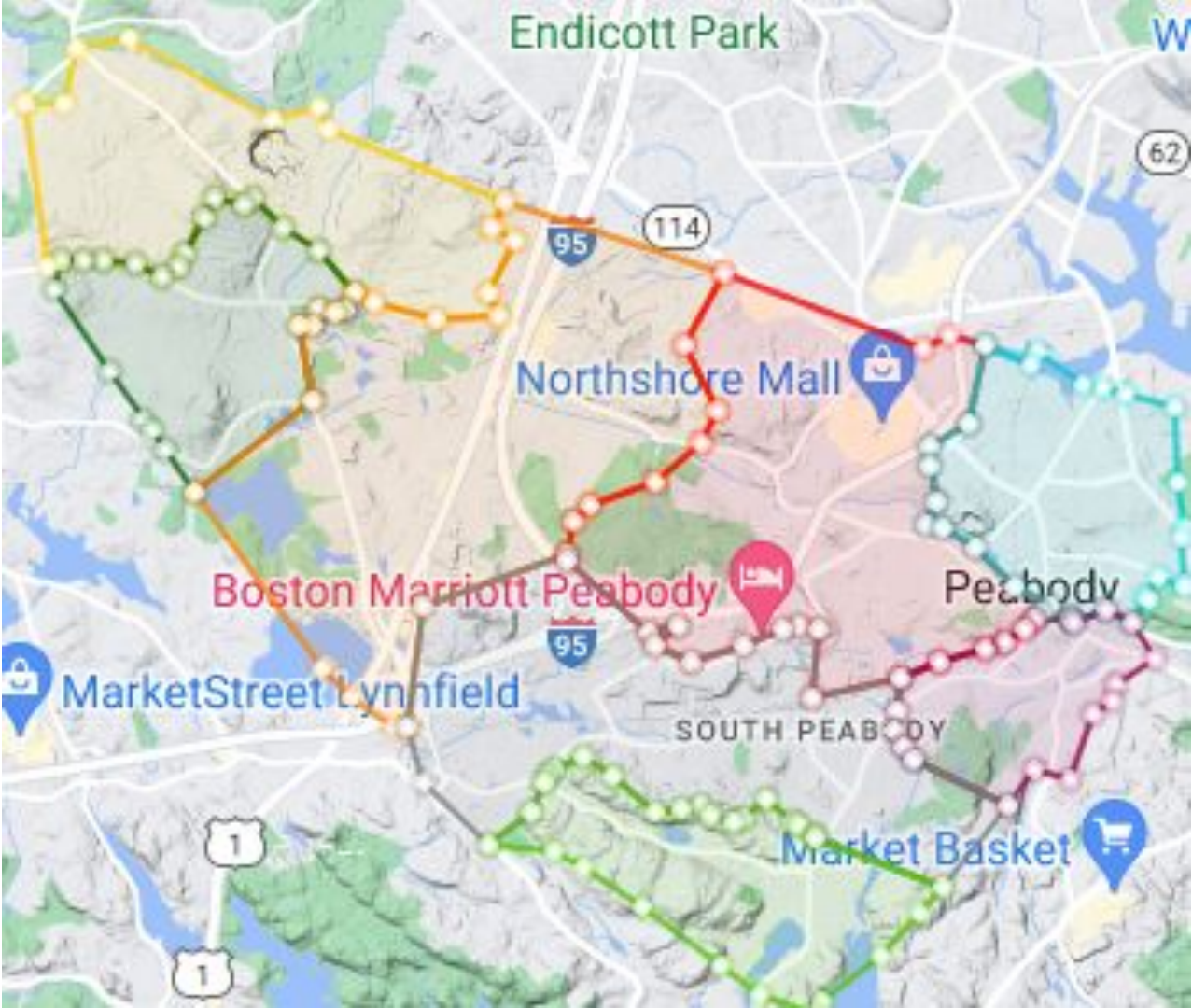
Center

Carroll

South

Welch

Brown



Next Steps

- **Thank you to the Current Building Committee**
- **Formation of Sub-Committees:**
 - **Construction/Renovation**
 - **Student Placement**
 - **Transportation**
 - **Staff Placement**
- **Visit the Center School webpage for information**

2023-2024 Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for the Peabody Public Schools 2023-2024 school year begins on Friday, March 31, 2023. For a preview of important documents needed for registration, please click...

[Read More](#)

Parents & Guardians

Students

Staff

Building Updates

[> Letter to Center School Families 9/14/23](#)[> Air Quality Report August 2023](#)[> Letter to Center School Families 8/10/23](#)[> Letter to Center School Families 7/7/23](#)[> Mold Assessment March 2023](#)[> Letter To Center School Families 2/17/23](#)[> Indoor Air Quality Report 2020](#)[> Room 101 Air Testing Results](#)[> Room 101 Dust Testing Results](#)

**Our goal is to
support a
smooth and
successful
transition for all
our students**



