

# HUNNEWELL BUILDING PROJECT

## Overview

Per the School Building Committee's (SBC) [website](#), the Hunnewell elementary school facility does not meet modern standards for education. The need for substantial renovation or replacement has been well documented. The SBC was created and charged by the School Committee (SC) and the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to conduct, subject to guidance and approval by both elected boards, the feasibility process for a new or renovated school.

In June 2019, the BOS and the SC voted to approve the SBC's recommendation for a new school to be built on the site of the current Hunnewell. The [presentation with high level designs](#) of the new building are available on the SBC's website.

The remaining open item in the feasibility study is the timing of the project. The timing is dependent on "swing space", which is where the Hunnewell students attend school while the construction of new school is underway. After an exhaustive process, there are two options left under consideration.

## Early Hunnewell

### Timeline

Late 2019-June 2021: Design and Permitting Phase

June 2021-June 2023: Construction Phase (an expedited schedule ending during the second half of the 2022-23 school year is possible)

August 2023: Classes commence in the new Hunnewell building (if construction is expedited, this could occur at some point during January-June 2023)

### Swing Space

The Early Hunnewell option would utilize Internal Swing Space, in which Hunnewell classrooms would be hosted in other Wellesley elementary schools. The Hunnewell students would continue to be taught by Hunnewell teachers, but in a different location. The most recent [proposal](#) shared in September 2019 has two grades (4 classrooms) hosted at each Bates and Sprague and one grade (2 classrooms) hosted at each Hardy and Fiske. Once a grade is assigned to a school, those students will remain at that school for both years. For example, if 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is assigned to Bates for the 2021-22 school year, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will be assigned to Bates for the 2022-23 school year. This allows students to stay at the same host school for the duration of the construction period. The analysis of which grades would be hosted at each school is ongoing. In this scenario, the school district would provide bus transportation for all Hunnewell students. Ongoing analysis is occurring on bus routes and staging points.

## Late Hunnewell

### Timeline

June 2022-June 2024: Design and Permitting Phase\*

June 2024- June 2026: Construction Phase

August 2026: Classes commence in the new Hunnewell building

\* This assumes the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) project begins construction in June 2022. If delays occur in that project, it will result in corresponding delays to the late Hunnewell timeline. The MSBA project is also known as the Hardy/Upham project. During this project, the current Hardy and Upham school sites will be studied and ultimately one new school will be constructed on one of those sites. The school at the other site will be taken offline until the

elementary school population for the town rises above 2,350 students. The MSBA has agreed to partner with the Town of Wellesley on this project, which means a portion of the costs (up to 35%) will be reimbursed by the state. This differs from the Hunnewell project which will be 100% funded by Wellesley taxpayers.

## Swing Space

The late Hunnewell option would utilize either the current Hardy or Upham elementary school, once construction is completed on the new school built as part of the MSBA project. As explained above, at the end of the MBSA project, there will be a school that is taken offline. That school could then be utilized for the Hunnewell swing space. The feasibility study for that project began in August 2019. Once the feasibility study is complete, more information will be available as to the school available for Hunnewell swing space. The target completion date for the MSBA feasibility study is May 2020.

More details on the variations of the Late Hunnewell scenarios can be found in the minutes or recording from the August 1, 2019 SBC Meeting.

## How Will This Impact My Family?

Top of mind for everyone is how and when their family could be impacted.

## Children in Elementary School Today

Current School Year	Early Hunnewell Swing Space		Late Hunnewell Swing Space	
	Grade in 2021-2022	Grade in 2022-2023	Grade in 2024-2025	Grade in 2025-2026
K	2	3	5	6
1	3	4	6	7
2	4	5	7	8
3	5	6	8	9
4	6	7	9	10
5	7	8	10	11

## Younger Children

Current School Year	Early Hunnewell Swing Space		Late Hunnewell Swing Space	
	Grade in 2021-2022	Grade in 2022-2023	Grade in 2024-2025	Grade in 2025-2026
Age as of September 1, 2019				
4	1	2	4	5
3	K	1	3	4
2	-	K	2	3
1	-	-	1	2
<1	-	-	K	1

## What's Been Happening?

On **October 1, 2019**, the School Committee voted 4-1 that internal swing space was a viable and acceptable swing space option. In practice, this means internal swing space could be used during the construction of Hunnewell, but does not mean that a decision has been made on early versus late Hunnewell.

On **October 3, 2019**, the School Building Committee voted unanimously to include the internal swing space model as its recommended swing space in the final feasibility report.

On [October 9, 2019](#), the School Committee voted 4-1 to accept the School Building Committee's recommendations as presented in its feasibility report, including internal swing space as the preferred swing space option. The School Committee also voted 4-1 to request a Special Town Meeting in December 2019 for the purpose of securing design funds for the Hunnewell project.

## And What's Next?

On [October 15, 2019](#), the Board of Selectmen will decide whether to call a Special Town Meeting for the purpose of voting on the Hunnewell building design funds.

On [October 16, 2019](#), if the Board of Selectmen decide to call a Special Town Meeting, the SBC will present the swing space option to the Advisory Committee.

During the month of [November 2019](#), the Advisory Committee will hold a town hearing process on the full Hunnewell package (i.e. design, sustainability package, swing space).

If called the Special Town Meeting would be held on [December 9-10, 2019](#).

## How Can I Be Involved?

- Attend Meetings In Person. You may listen to the meeting or choose to speak during the citizens speak. All meetings can be found on the [Town of Wellesley website](#) under each board/committee.
- Watch meetings on the [Wellesley Public Media website](#). You may stream live or watch on demand.
- Write to committee/board members.
  - School Committee: [School\\_Committee@wellesleyps.org](mailto:School_Committee@wellesleyps.org)
  - School Building Committee: [sbc@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:sbc@wellesleyma.gov)
  - Board of Selectmen: [sel@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:sel@wellesleyma.gov)
  - Advisory Committee: [advisorycommittee@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:advisorycommittee@wellesleyma.gov)

## Questions?

Have a question or concern that you would like answered? Submit it through this [Google form](#) and we will work to find an answer or pass along the concern.