

December 13, 2007

Dear Parents,

Recently the Mass. School Building Authority (MSBA) released the names of schools it is inviting to participate in its process for design studies for new school buildings. We are delighted that Carlisle is on the list! The MSBA action is not an approval for a new building, but it is an important and most welcome first step.

MSBA representatives expect to meet with us over the next two months to outline the process they mean to pursue with us. They will review our building Master Plan and work with us to determine the appropriate scope for a new building. Once we have agreement about the scope and about the rate at which we can expect to be reimbursed by the state, we'll have 120 days for Carlisle to approve funding to hire a designer for the building project. Typically, the design process for a new school building takes about a year and construction about two years after that.

As you may know, the Building Committee has developed three options, as requested by the Selectmen. The first option replaces the Spalding, but does not address our overcrowding. The Committee believes this would leave Carlisle needing another building project in fewer than 10 years, and it is unlikely that the MSBA would provide funding again so soon.

The MSBA wants towns to be thinking longer term, and the Building Committee's options 2 and 3 do this. Option 2 provides more classrooms so that Grade 2 and the preschool would move to the new building, and space would be opened in the Robbins to ease crowding. Option 3 adds an engineering lab, an additional gym for community and school use, a community area, and an all purpose room. The MSBA has clear guidelines for the number and size of spaces it will approve for reimbursement.

The MSBA process is brand new, and more information will emerge as we participate in it. We are among 49 schools being invited to participate in this first year of the new process; this is great position to be in because more than 400 schools in the state submitted statements of interest to the MSBA. We will share with you what we learn as we go along, and we ask parents to keep informed and to support our work. The CSA will host a meeting on February 14 at 9:00 AM with the Building Committee, and I hope you'll attend.

Sincerely,  
Marie Doyle