

# Southborough New School Proposal

The Neary Building Committee's 12 options were narrowed to four, and then to *just one*. With an estimated cost of \$108,517,025, this is the only option currently before the MSBA and town residents— and the only one being presented at the Special Town Meeting on May 10.

## Cost: \$108,517,025\*

*\*Before state reimbursements*

### 1 Demolish and Rebuild Neary School Grades 2, 3, 4 and 5

Being built adjacent to former town landfill, capped but not encapsulated. Will need to monitor and test site regularly. Requires a Prop 2½ override and will increase property taxes approximately \$1200/year for the life of the bond (based on \$900K home; estimate is before anticipated 30.45% state reimbursement.)

### 2 Close Finn School

Cost unknown. Future use unknown. Removes educational building from the southside of town. Requires ongoing town funds to operate, maintain, and update.

### 3 Re-purpose Woodward Pre-K, K, Grade 1

Proposed cost of +\$500,000 to repurpose for Pre-K, K and 1st grades. Two-story building was built for older elementary students with the main staircase being a multi-level, open-rail style.

### 4 No change to Trottier Grades 6, 7, 8

## WE DON'T NEED A NEW NEARY. WE NEED A BETTER PLAN.

Let's choose a path that maximizes our existing assets and provides a sustainable, affordable future for our town.

Plan B maintains our quality education by efficiently reconfiguring Finn, Woodward and Trottier— saving tax payers more than \$1200 per year (average \$900K home) to fund a Neary rebuild that's simply not needed. This would be in addition to any annual tax increase to fund town operations (currently estimated at approx +6% for FY26.) Plan B represents a more fiscally responsible alternative that won't burden tax payers or risk pricing out residents, especially seniors.

## PLAN B

*The following proposal is supported by Neary Building Committee documents, enrollment projections and information shared at meetings.*

### 1 Re-purpose Finn: Pre-K, K, Grades 1, 2

Without Northborough's Pre-K students (who are returning to Northborough), Southborough's Pre-K is projected to serve 60 students. Finn could be re-purposed to the grade 2.

### 2 Woodward: Grades 3, 4

As the smallest school, Woodward could comfortably serve 3rd and 4th grades.

### 3 Modify Trottier: Grades 5, 6, 7, 8

As the largest school, Trottier could accommodate four grades – separated with grades 7 and 8 on the second level and grades 5 and 6 on the first level, or other scenario.

Southborough has ample classroom space to accommodate projected enrollments without using Neary and without building a new \$108.5 million school.

Southborough deserves a solution that is fiscally responsible while ensuring our children have the schools and resources needed to support our recognized high level of education. **After all, it is not the buildings but the faculty, staff, community resources and support that make our education system exemplary.**

**QUESTIONS? Email to [SouthboroughConcerned@gmail.com](mailto:SouthboroughConcerned@gmail.com)**

# “NEARY” PLAN B

**There IS a Plan B solution to the Neary Building Committee (NBC) option of a \$108.5 million new school for Southborough!**

The proposal for building a new Neary school is one of the most important financial decisions Southborough has ever had to make. The NBC proposes demolishing the current two grade school to build a new four-grade school for second through fourth grades. There are more fiscally responsible alternatives that won't burden tax payers or risk pricing out residents, especially seniors.

The Neary Building Committee (NBC) proposed new school plan is the only option currently before the Massachusetts School Building Authority — and it's the only one being presented at the Special Town Meeting on May 10. (The current estimate is \$108,517,025 with an anticipated 30.45% state reimbursement.) The NBC has no backup plan, insisting the only choices are either building a new school or do nothing and restart the process.

In addition, ongoing concerns have been noted about the proximity of the proposed new school site to an old capped unlined landfill on Parkerville Rd. and the risks of disturbing this potentially contaminated area.

But there are viable alternatives. The decision to build a \$108.5 million school at this time is not fiscally responsible, nor is it necessary. According to information and documents used by the NBC, Southborough currently has enough school space to accommodate all students without utilizing an outdated Neary or spending millions on a new school.

We propose Plan B that requires little, if any, renovation, no new construction, and sufficient space for all students, teachers, and staff. **Let's think creatively and make use of what we already have!**

P. Brent Trottier Middle School, the largest school in Southborough is 130,000 square feet and is underutilized with just three grades. Even in the proposed new school configuration, Trottier would remain a three-grade school. The proposed four grade Neary replacement is 99,564 square feet - **30% smaller than the three grade Trottier**. Why build a new, smaller four-grade school when Trottier could easily accommodate the same needs without the enormous price tag?

Here's how Plan B could work seamlessly:

- **Finn:** Without Northborough's PreK (which is returning to Northborough), Southborough's PreK program is projected to serve 60 students. With fewer classrooms needed for Northborough, Finn could be repurposed for PreK, Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades.
- **Woodward:** As the smallest school, Woodward could comfortably serve 3rd and 4th grades.
- **Trottier:** As the largest school, Trottier could easily accommodate four grades – the upper school (grades 7 and 8) on the second level and the lower school (grades 5 and 6) on the first level, or a similar scenario.

With potential minimal adjustments, these schools can meet the needs of all students. Southborough has ample classroom space to accommodate projected enrollments; **without using Neary and without building a new \$108.5 million school.**

If we move forward with the proposed new building, the town ends up with 99,564 square feet of extra school space — which will need to be heated, cooled, and maintained.

Southborough deserves a solution that is fiscally responsible while ensuring our children have the schools and resources needed to support our recognized high level of quality education. After all, **it is not the buildings but the faculty, staff, community resources and support that make our education system exemplary.** Let's choose a path that maximizes our existing assets and provides a sustainable, affordable future for our town.

QUESTIONS? Email to [SouthboroughConcerned@gmail.com](mailto:SouthboroughConcerned@gmail.com)