



Barrington Public Schools

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Barrington Middle School project nearing final plans for design and financing

Project moving forward after voters overwhelmingly approved the bond referendum in November

BARRINGTON, RI – Barrington Public Schools officials have submitted to the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) a final schematic design for a [new Barrington Middle School](#). The schematic design addresses the school's needs for academic and enrichment programs, including spaces for instruction, student support, athletics, arts and music, and more.

Both the Barrington School Committee and the Building Committee for the project will take final votes on the plans after the RIDE review. Approval of the schematic design would move the project closer to going out to bid for construction. The project would then move into design development phase to produce more detailed specifications for construction. Officials noted that the Building Committee and School Committee are continually working to reduce costs and maximize efficiencies on the project.

On November 8, Barrington voters approved a bond referendum to finance the project, with total costs not to exceed \$68.4 million. RIDE approved reimbursement for at least 35 percent of eligible costs. Next steps on finalizing project financing include votes to exceed the tax cap, first by the Town Council on January 9, and if they approve the measure, another vote in a special Financial Town Meeting in March 2017. Additional details about financing for the project are posted at <http://www.bmsproject.org/finances>.

The project is scheduled to be put out to bid in early summer 2017, with construction estimated to begin in fall 2017. If the project remains on schedule, the school will open in August 2019, followed by demolition of the existing facility.

The current building on Middle Highway was built in 1952 and has not been renovated extensively since 1968. The facility was one of only 14 schools – out of 276 in the state – to receive the lowest rating of “poor” in a 2013 [statewide analysis of school building conditions](#).

The next Building Committee meeting is Wednesday, January 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the middle school library.

For more information, visit www.bmsproject.org.

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