

Main Lobby



Pool Building



Science Lab



**PLEASE JOIN US**  
**Community Forum 10/19/23, 6 PM,**  
**East Longmeadow HS Cafeteria**  
Tours starting at 5:30 PM

Watch the latest 9/21/23  
Community Forum recording:



### Project Schedule (if approved)



**Fall 2024 – Construction starts**  
**Fall 2026 – Students move in**  
**Summer 2027 – Site work completed**

### School Building Committee

- Stephen Chrusciel, School Building Committee Chair
- Gordon Smith, Superintendent of Schools
- Pamela Blair, Assistant Superintendent for Business
- Frank Paige, ELHS Principal
- Heather Brown, ELPS Director of Curriculum
- Tom Christensen, Town Manager
- Kathleen Hill, Town Council Member
- Elizabeth Marsian-Boucher, Community Member
- Greg Thompson, School Committee Member
- Bruce Fenney, Superintendent of EL DPW
- Daniela LaBarre, School Psychologist/Faculty Member
- Ryan Quimby, Town IT Director
- Kimberly Collins, Director of Municipal Finance at Town of East Longmeadow

### Project Partners

- Skanska, Owner's Project Manager (OPM) Team
- JWA & SMMA, Design Team
- Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), Funding Partner

[eastlongmeadowma.gov/elhsbuildingproject](http://eastlongmeadowma.gov/elhsbuildingproject)

**VOTE NOV 7<sup>th</sup>**  
at Birchland Park  
Middle School  
7 AM – 8 PM



## ELHS BUILDING PROJECT

Project Update No. 6  
October 2023 Version 2  
Presented by the ELHS Building Committee

### If Approved...

On November 7th, 2023, at Birchland Park Middle School, a town-wide debt exclusion vote will be held to appropriate the full project cost. If approved by the voters, the project will begin the Detailed Design phase, with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the Summer of 2024 and the New HS to open in Fall of 2026. The class of 2027 will be in the new high school building.

### If Failed...

If the voters reject the project at the 11/7 Special Election the school will remain as is. The District could re-apply for a new core MSBA project or undertake renovations without State financial assistance. After a failed debt exclusion vote, it can take 5 to 7 years to be re-accepted. Under any circumstances, the Town will be spending significant funds on the high school in the near future. Rebuilding the high school now with state funds and without delay is the most cost-effective choice for East Longmeadow taxpayers.



View to Main Entry

## A Message from the SBC Chair

Greetings all,

### East Longmeadow needs a new high school because the rapidly deteriorating and outdated existing facility no longer meets today's educational standards.

In 2015, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) put East Longmeadow High School on warning status, having identified twelve (12) meaningful deficiencies in their 2014 NEASC Report of the Visiting Committee, several of which were previously identified in the same report from 2003. While the District has consistently invested in the ongoing maintenance of the existing building, the wholesale needs of the facility are larger than ordinary repairs lend themselves to. In 2019, after six years of failed attempts, the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) accepted the Town's application to participate in the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Core Program.

The ELHS Building Committee represents the Town and school administrations as well as the community at large. As required under MSBA protocol, the Committee first assessed the needs of the high school educational program and worked to find the most academically appropriate and fiscally responsible solution. The Committee has held five public forums (the sixth will be held on 10/19/23), conducted multiple surveys, met with our educational leaders and community members, and shared its work on a public website.

The proposed design evolved through two years of planning and community input, and it is clearly **the best choice for East Longmeadow**. The design concept is a significantly better value than the base repair and addition/renovation options, it has a shorter construction timeline, and it minimizes disruption to the existing school during construction, it improves traffic flow and access to athletic fields, creates accessible and inclusive learning environments, meets the expectations of a carefully crafted education plan, and helps achieve the Town's sustainability goals. The new East Longmeadow High School will allow educators to deliver 21st-century instruction in a safe and welcoming environment.

The Committee is committed to using tax dollars wisely and is very aware that cost remains a primary concern to our community. To this end, we have undertaken measures to reduce the project budget without sacrificing the educational program. It is essential to recognize, however, **that under any circumstances, the Town will be spending significant funds on the high school in the immediate future**. Rebuilding the high school now without

delay and with the benefit of \$63M in state funding is the most cost-effective choice for East Longmeadow taxpayers. Because of the deteriorating facility conditions and accreditation concerns, significant work will need to be done on the high school, irrespective of the outcome of the debt exclusion vote.

**This is a generational opportunity for our Town.** We have the chance to impact the future of our children's education in a historically meaningful way. I hope you will join me in supporting this project, and I respectfully ask for your affirmative vote on November 7th at Birchland Park Middle School.

**Stephen J. Chrusciel**  
**ELHS Building Committee Chair**

### Why do we need a new High School?

The existing facility is comprised of three buildings constructed over 60 years ago; 1959, 1964, 1973. While the District has invested in ongoing maintenance of the existing building, the wholesale needs of the facility are significant and costly. Addressing these needs are paramount to meet the District's educational goals for the future. After six years of failed attempts, in 2019, the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) accepted the Town's application to participate in the MSBA rebuilding program. The MSBA offered East Longmeadow HS a grant opportunity for the main following reasons (abbreviated list):

1. Overwhelmed electrical system
2. Lack of air conditioning and adequate air circulation
3. Lack of sprinklers
4. Need for hazmat remediation
5. Unsafe site circulation
6. Inadequate science labs and other major concerns

### What will the new High School include?

#### High School Project Highlights:

- Construction of a new high school that meets the District's educational vision
- Accessible building and site
- New auditorium for music, drama, and assembly areas
- New science, engineering, and culinary arts labs
- Media center designed around 21st-century learning
- A larger gymnasium
- Safer parking and circulation
- New press box, concession stand, and rest rooms at the existing stadium
- New fields, including softball fields, tennis, and basketball courts
- Outdoor teaching areas

- Up-to-date instructional technology and furnishings
- Inclusion of District Central Offices, IT Department, and ELCAT Studio
- A LEED Certified, high performing, all-electric building with photovoltaics that will produce up to one-third of its energy costs
- An air conditioned and efficiently heated building supported by an emergency generator

#### Pool Project Highlights:

- New 6 lane pool to serve community and school
- Separate and secure entry – controlled access between pool and school
- Can be used by the community while school is in session
- Can host larger meets (possible revenue stream)
- Improved accessibility for all swimmers

### What will it cost?

#### High School Project by the Numbers

Est MSBA Grant:	\$ 63 million
Est Town Share:	\$ 114.5 million
Est Total Project Cost:	\$ 177.5 million
Estimated tax impact on *average single-family home (assessed value)	~\$990--\$1,040/yr

#### Pool Project by the Numbers

Est Town Share:	\$ 16.7 million
Est Total Project Cost:	\$ 16.7 million
Estimated tax impact on *average single-family home (assessed value)	\$~152/yr

**\*Tax Impact assumptions:** 2023 average assessed single family home value = \$339,811. Over a 30-year loan, tax impact will fluctuate over time, having a slightly smaller impact for the first few years. Interest rates are estimated (at 5%). Tax rate impact assumes no increase in assessed value.

**For more information, please visit our website:**  
[eastlongmeadowma.gov/elhsbuildingproject](http://eastlongmeadowma.gov/elhsbuildingproject)