

TOWN OF HEATH

MASSACHUSETTS



SELECT BOARD

MEETING MINUTES - TOWN OF HEATH SELECT BOARD

This meeting was held on Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at 5:00PM.
JACOBS ROAD MUNICIPAL CENTER – CAFETERIA - 18 JACOBS ROAD HEATH, MA 01346

Called to order at 5:00PM with Robyn Provost (Chair), Elissa Viarengo (Member), and Mia Francesconi (Town Coordinator) present. William Emmet (Member) was absent.

Others present included Bill Fontes, Ned Wolf, Maya Blum (Municipal ADA Coordinator), and Casey Clark (A Foragers Trade).

R. Provost announced that the meeting was being audio recorded.

Review Agenda

Meeting Minutes: 08/25/2026

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by R. Provost to approve the meeting minutes from August 25, 2026, as amended.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 2-0

Meeting Minutes: 09/08/2026

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by R. Provost to approve the meeting minutes from September 8, 2026, as amended.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 2-0

Accounts Payable/Payroll Warrants

Approved by signature.

Public Comment

None.

Number Nine Road – Progress Update

Members explained that patching had begun on Number Nine Road, but they weren't sure what progress had been made toward the remaining deliverables discussed at the previous meeting. R. Provost will follow up with the Highway Superintendent.

Transfer of Funds to the Town of Heath from the Municipal Light Plant (MLP) – Vote to Accept \$60,000.00 from Net Broadband Revenue for FY '27 – Vote Anticipated

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A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by R. Provost to accept \$60,000 of Net Broadband Revenue from the Municipal Light Plant (MLP).

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 2-0

Speeding on Taylor Brook Road – Review Email from Mark McDonagh; Review NEW Speed & Traffic Data for Taylor Brook Road

Members reviewed the email from Mark McDonagh regarding speeding on Taylor Brook Road and the possibility of posting a speed limit in that area. Members asked that M. Francesconi email the Police Chief to see if it was possible that there was once a posted speed limit in that area, and if not, what the process is to post/institute a speed limit. Members noted that they had recently requested a meeting with the Mohawk Estates board and that this issue would be added to the list of discussion topics.

Appointment – Appoint Rachel Lewis as Temporary Town Nurse for the Remainder of FY '27 – Vote Anticipated

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by R. Provost to appoint Rachel M. Lewis to the temporary, unbenefited position of Town Nurse for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2027 for approximately five (5) hours per week at an hourly rate of \$45.50.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 2-0

Franklin County Technical School (FCTS) & Mohawk Trail Regional School District (MTRSD) Building Projects – Updates & Decide What to Include & When to Send Town-Wide Mailer – Vote Possible

M. Francesconi distributed a sample mailer envelope to the members present containing information about the FCTS building project and associated vote. She noted that she did not include information about the MTRSD building project and associated vote because she felt that the information would be more helpful to Heath voters closer to the date of the vote. Members agreed. Members proposed edits to the voter information insert and instructed M. Francesconi to send the mailer to all households with registered voters in Heath once the edits were made.

Northeast IT – Firewall Service/Maintenance Platform Migration & REVISED Cost Estimate – Vote Possible

A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by R. Provost to approve the proposal for \$485 from Northeast IT Systems, Inc. for a new gateway to replace the current Sonicwall firewall.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 2-0

6:00PM: Casey Clark, A Foragers Trade – Discuss Letter of Intent & Expression of Interest for Lease of Former Library Space at Sawyer Hall

Members welcomed C. Clark. C. Clark explained that she intended to use the former library space in Sawyer Hall as storage and office space for her business, A Foragers Trade. She wasn't sure whether the

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space was right for her business, so she requested a month-to-month lease/license to start. The business primarily acquires and sells antique furniture online, though she occasionally sets up short-term retail spaces/booths at antique shows. Members asked how the items would be stored as stacked furniture against walls/windows could create a fire hazard if not done properly. C. Clark stated that she would store the items according to the applicable Massachusetts fire codes and with the approval of the Fire Chief. Members instructed M. Francesconi to draft a license for the space to be reviewed by C. Clark and the Select Board ahead of the next meeting.

West County EMS Regionalization Initiative – Review New Information; Updates from Most Recent Meeting

M. Francesconi explained that there weren't as many updates as she had expected after the last meeting, but she'd continue to keep everyone in the loop.

6:30PM: Maya Blum, Municipal ADA Coordinator – Review ADA Self-Evaluation & Transition Plan; Discuss Goals & Objectives

Members summarized the recent discussions at Select Board meetings regarding accessibility and Town buildings, primarily the discussions about the center of Town. Members explained that they had received a proposal from a landscape architecture firm for services from conceptual design through 90% design documents for the Town center but were still looking for a way to fund the project. M. Blum asked whether the center of Town warranted such a significant expense with how little the buildings were utilized. Members noted that it likely wouldn't be possible without outside funding and/or services and it would be a primary discussion point during budget season. M. Blum stated that she would be willing to participate in budget discussions related to the accessibility of Town buildings. Members welcomed the idea, stating that they would invite M. Blum to meetings where they thought that it could be discussed. R. Provost explained that the Town had applied for a Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) construction grant to tackle some of the larger tasks outlined in the ADA Transition Plan for the Jacobs Road Municipal Center (JRMC), but notification of grant awards isn't expected until the end of the year. M. Blum noted that the remaining tasks outlined for the JRMC were relatively small and inexpensive. M. Francesconi explained that she could put together a list of the smaller tasks listed in the ADA Transition Plan for the Jacobs Road Municipal Center that she believed could be completed by volunteers. The list would include pricing for the purchase of materials. Once approved by the Select Board, she could have the Building Maintenance Coordinator order the materials, then the work could be coordinated. Members expressed their support for the idea, noting that they would assist wherever possible. It was suggested that a meeting be scheduled between the Building Use Committee, the Select Board, and M. Blum as work towards completion of the tasks outlined in the ADA Transition Plan progressed. M. Francesconi will schedule this when appropriate.

Town Building Maintenance – Community Hall Lift Mechanical Issue Update; Sawyer Hall Heating System Issue & Resolution Estimate – Vote Possible

M. Francesconi had no updates on either item.

Town Coordinator Updates

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M. Francesconi presented the attached document entitled *Town Coordinator Updates, September 22, 2026*.

Mail

- C. Clark (A Foragers Trade) re. Letter of Intent & Expression of Interest
- A. Schwenger re. (MLB) Transfer of Funds to the Town of Heath
- M. McDonagh re. Taylor Brook Concerns
- R. Clary (FRCOG) re. Taylor Brook Road Class & Speed Data Analysis
- R. Lewis re. Acceptance of Temporary Town Nurse Position Offer
- FRCOG re. West County EMS Planning Meeting Summary 08/19/2026
- FRCOG re. West County EMS “Good” Annual Operational Budget
- FRCOG re. West County Ambulance Collaboration Project Brochure
- FRCOG re. West County Ambulance Collaboration DRAFT Press Release
- FRCOG re. Ambulance Service Grant Eligibility by Governance Model
- FRCOG re. DRAFT Intermunicipal Agreement for ALS & BLS Services
- White Heating re. Estimate for Sawyer Hall Heating System Repairs
- Northeast IT re. Firewall Replacement REVISED Pricing
- C. Rabbitt (Town Nurse) re. Flu Clinic w/ FRCOG’s CPHS
- C. Rabbitt (Town Nurse) re. August Monthly Report
- R. Clary (FRCOG) re. Long Hill Road Class & Speed Data Analysis
- R. Clary (FRCOG) re. Sadoga Road Class & Speed Data Analysis
- J. Ameen (FCSWMD) re. Recycling Revolving Fund Balance & Spending
- FCTS Vote Information & Estimated Debt Amount Per-Town
- Membership of the School Building Committee for the MTRHS
- J. Eberwein re. 2D8T August/September 2026 Update
- J. Atwood re. FRCOG Planning Updates
- D. Finn (MassDOER) re. Siting & Permitting Training Opportunity
- T. Rogers (FRCOG) re. Municipal Preparedness for Cyberattacks
- S. Gruen re. PVMCD EPI Week 35 Surveillance Report
- S. Gruen re. PVMCD EPI Week 34 Surveillance Report
- J. Ameen (FCSWMD) re. September Recycling AMV & Revenue
- J. Ameen (FCSWMD) re. August Recycling Expense

New business that could not be anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting

None.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 5:00PM

Meeting Adjournment

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A motion was made by E. Viarengo and seconded by R. Provost to adjourn the meeting of the Select Board at 7:32PM.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carries: 2-0

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mia Francesconi', is written over the printed name.

Mia Francesconi, Town Coordinator
Town of Heath

ATTACHMENTS NOT INCLUDED IN MAIL:

- *Sign-In Sheet, September 22, 2026*
- *Franklin County Technical School MSBA Building Project (Flyer)*
- *Franklin County Technical School MSBA Building Project FAQs*
- *2D8T Sustainability Study One Page Overview (Flyer)*
- *West County EMS Regionalization Initiative DRAFT Assessment Model*
- *Town Coordinator Updates, September 22, 2026*

Heath
Select Board Meeting

DATE: September 22, 2020

Please Sign In

Name (please print)

PRINT NAME

Bill Fontes

Ned Wolf

Maya Blum

Casey Clark

SIGN

Bill Fontes

Ned Wolf

Maya Blum

Casey Clark



FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL MSBA BUILDING PROJECT



OCTOBER 6, 2026 SPECIAL ELECTION



TOTAL PROJECT COST



\$236.6
MILLION

MSBA REIMBURSEMENT



UP TO
\$113.8
MILLION

66.27% OF ELIGIBLE COSTS

LOCAL SHARE



\$122.8
MILLION

PROJECT TIMELINE



Design & Bidding
Continue through 2027



Construction
Begins 2028



New School Opens
Fall 2030

1 WHY IS A NEW BUILDING NEEDED?

- ✓ Current building was constructed in 1976 (50 years old)
- ✓ Aging systems: mechanical, electrical, plumbing, roof
- ✓ Outdated ventilation, dust collection, and fume extraction
- ✓ Overcrowded and undersized classrooms & shops
- ✓ Spaces do not meet current educational/CTE standards
- ✓ Layout limitations affecting programs, safety & security
- ✓ Increasing maintenance and infrastructure needs



The existing building was designed for 1976—not the educational, safety, technology, and workforce needs of 2030 and beyond.

2 WHY NOT JUST RENOVATE?

A major renovation was studied as one of the project alternatives.

- Estimated renovation cost: ~ \$125 million
- ~4 years of phased construction
- Temporary space & multiple phases
- Significant relocation & double-moving of equipment
- Major disruption to programs & instruction
- Extensive replacement of systems
- Would still leave limitations in size, layout & educational spaces



Eight options were evaluated (repairs, renovation/additions, and new construction). The School Committee selected the option that provides the best overall value and educational solution.

3 WHO IS OVERSEEING THE PROJECT?



Local: School Building Committee
Educators, school leaders, parents, municipal officials, industry reps.



Owner's Project Manager:
Colliers Project Leaders



Architect/Design Team:
Lavallee Brensinger Architects & specialized consultants



State: MSBA & DESE



MSBA: Provides funding & oversight through a rigorous multi-step process to ensure standards are met.

Expected MSBA reimbursement:
Up to \$113.8 million / 66.27% of eligible project costs

4 WHAT HAPPENS ON OCTOBER 6?

✓ IF APPROVED

- ✓ FCTS proceeds with the project
- ✓ Enters MSBA funding agreement
- ✓ District finances local share through bonding
- ✓ Design & bidding continue through 2027
- ✓ Construction begins in 2028
- ✓ New school opens Fall 2030

✗ IF NOT APPROVED

- ~ \$113.8 million in MSBA reimbursement is forfeited
- Major repairs will still be needed
- Comprehensive repair/renovation plan would be required
- No guarantee the district would be invited back into the MSBA program or receive same reimbursement opportunity

5 HOW IS THE LOCAL COST SHARED?

The local share is distributed among FCTS's 19 member communities using the district's existing assessment formula:

50%

POPULATION



+

50%

EQUALIZED VALUATION



The MSBA reimbursement significantly reduces the local cost. The project team has made decisions throughout the process to maximize eligible reimbursement.

6 WHAT WILL THE PROJECT PROVIDE?



STUDENTS & EDUCATION

- Modern classrooms, labs & CTE shops
- Industry-aligned equipment & technology
- Improved ventilation, power, safety
- Flexible spaces for modern instruction
- Supports all current FCTS programs



ENROLLMENT

- MSBA design enrollment: 600 (at 80% capacity)
- Campus target (with Vet Tech/Aviation): 636
- District continues to serve ~670 students
- Facility flexibility: ~736 students



COMMUNITY & WORKFORCE

- Strengthens skilled workforce & economy
- Opportunities for community & adult education
- Retains football field & track
- Relocates/replaces baseball & softball fields
- Improves parking, circulation, safety & access

7 WILL IT BE ENERGY EFFICIENT?



- Hybrid geothermal & air-source HVAC
- Energy-efficient lighting & controls
- Stretch Energy Code compliance
- LEED certification goals
- Modern systems that reduce energy use & maintenance

A more efficient, sustainable, and less maintenance-intensive facility.

8 WHAT ABOUT TAX IMPACT?

Each community's impact is different because of the existing assessment formula.
Estimated average annual household impact currently ranges from approximately \$87-\$335, depending on the member community.



Use the FCTS tax impact calculator at www.fctsbnewbuildingproject.us for an estimate based on your town's projected assessment and property value.

Estimates are planning tools. Actual impacts will depend on final project costs, financing, and local tax rates.

9 OTHER FREQUENT QUESTIONS



More staff positions?

No direct staffing increase is anticipated.



New stadium?

No. Existing football field & track remain. Baseball & softball fields will be relocated/replaced.



Programs eliminated?

No. The project is designed to support current programs.



Where do I vote?

At your regular polling location. Town clerks can provide details.



Why a special election?

MSBA schedule requires a district-wide vote on the same day in all 19 towns. FCTS is covering the costs for the special election.

KEY NUMBERS TO REMEMBER



50
YEARS OLD
CURRENT
BUILDING



\$236.6M
TOTAL PROJECT
COST



\$113.8M
MAX MSBA
REIMBURSEMENT



\$122.8M
LOCAL SHARE



66.27%
MSBA REIMBURSEMENT
RATE (ELIGIBLE COSTS)



19
MEMBER
COMMUNITIES



600
MSBA DESIGN ENROLLMENT
(80% CAPACITY)



636
CAMPUS TARGET
ENROLLMENT



736
APPROXIMATE
CAPACITY



2028
ANTICIPATED
CONSTRUCTION START



FALL 2030
ANTICIPATED
OPENING



OCTOBER 6, 2026
DISTRICT-WIDE VOTE



A MODERN INVESTMENT IN OUR STUDENTS, OUR COMMUNITY, AND OUR FUTURE.





FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL MSBA BUILDING PROJECT

October 6, 2026 Vote

1. Why is a project needed? What issues does the current facility have?

- The FCTS facility was built in 1976 and is now 50 years old.
- MSBA determined that the facility no longer meets today's educational, safety, and infrastructure needs.
- Critical building systems are reaching the end of their useful life:
 - Mechanical and electrical systems
 - Dust collection and fume extraction systems
 - Roof
- The new school will provide additional, appropriately sized learning spaces to better accommodate current enrollment and future growth, reducing overcrowding in classrooms, labs, shops, and common areas.
- The current layout limits both educational opportunities and school security.

2. Why is FCTS proposing a new building instead of repairs?

- Renovation would not resolve key needs:
 - The MSBA feasibility study found that the base renovation option could not accommodate the District's full educational program and future needs.
 - Classroom overcrowding and undersized spaces would remain.
 - The educational program and enrollment would remain constrained.
- Renovation is estimated at approximately [\\$125 million](#) and would still require significant upgrades and disruption.
- A major renovation would require substantial code and infrastructure work, including:
 - A fire sprinkler system
 - A new roof, insulation, and structural upgrades for weight and snow loads
 - Replacement of air handling, heating, and fresh-air systems
 - New electrical and data systems
 - Repairs to under-slab plumbing, requiring portions of the floor slab to be opened
 - Exterior wall and building-envelope upgrades to meet energy codes

- A repair/renovation approach would also require:
 - Approximately four years of phased construction, with 8–10 phases
 - Temporary classroom trailers
 - Moving equipment out of construction areas and back again, including temporary power and data needs
 - Relocating shop instruction such as carpentry, welding, and automotive work within the building or potentially renting space elsewhere and transporting students

3. What is the total cost of the new school and how much will the state reimburse?

- Total project cost: approximately \$236.6 million.
- MSBA reimbursement: up to approximately \$113.8 million.
- Local district share: approximately \$122.8 million.
- The MSBA reimbursement is not a flat percentage of the total project cost. Certain costs, including some site and project-related expenses, are not eligible for reimbursement, and reimbursement is subject to MSBA eligibility requirements and caps.
- The District and project team have made decisions throughout the process with the goal of maximizing available state reimbursement while meeting the educational and operational needs of the new school.

4. Where can I vote, and why is a Special Election being held?

- Voting will take place at the standard polling locations in each of the 19 member towns on **October 6 from 12- 8 PM**.
- Your Town Clerk can provide your polling location.
- The vote must occur on the same day and at the same time in all 19 towns.
- The October 6 date was selected to support the strongest practical turnout, after school is back in session and while allowing time for district outreach.
- The MSBA project schedule requires the vote within a specific timeframe, which precludes a later date.
- The District is covering the costs to the towns associated with the special election.

5. What happens if the vote passes?

- Under the Regional District Agreement, approval of the project requires a **simple majority of voters**—meaning more than half of the votes cast must be in favor.
- The FCTS District would issue bonds to finance the local share of the project.
- The District would enter into a funding agreement with MSBA for up to \$113.8 million in reimbursement.
- The project would proceed according to the established project timeline.

6. What happens if the vote does not pass?

- The District would forfeit approximately \$113.8 million in MSBA reimbursement.

- The District would still need to address approximately \$125.3 million in major repairs through multiple phased projects.
- The full scope of a major repair option would need to be designed and studied.
- The District would need to submit a new Statement of Interest to MSBA, with no guarantee that the District would be invited back into the program.
- MSBA would not provide reimbursement for planning costs.

7. What is the project timeline?

- If approved, detailed design and bidding will continue through 2027.
- Construction is expected to begin in 2028.
- The new school is anticipated to open for students in Fall 2030.

8. How was the proposed solution selected?

- FCTS applied to the MSBA program in April 2022.
- A Building Task Force was formed, and an Owner's Project Manager and design team were hired.
- Community input was gathered to establish project goals, including input from the School Committee, educators, school leaders, parents, town officials, and industry representatives.
- Five project priorities were established:
 - Education
 - Community
 - Value
 - Efficiency
 - Character
- Eight (8) development options were evaluated, including repairs only, renovation with additions, and new-building options.
- Construction cost estimates were developed to compare the options.
- The School Committee selected the option that best met the project goals and provided the best overall value and return on investment.

9. How are costs shared among the 19 member towns?

- The project cost would be shared among Franklin Tech's 19 member communities through the District's existing assessment formula.
- Each community's share is calculated using:
 - 50% population, based on the most recent U.S. Census
 - 50% equalized valuation, based on the most recent Department of Revenue report
- Annual projections for each town are available on the project website.

10. Will the per-student costs for each town increase as a result of the project?

- The project does not create a direct increase to the towns' annual operating assessments. The costs are tied specifically to the **capital costs of financing the new school building** and will be reflected through the District's capital assessment.
- The District's annual capital costs and each town's capital assessments are expected to increase during the term of the bond.
- The impact on each member town will vary based on the District's assessment formula.
- The MSBA reimbursement significantly reduces the local cost of the project.
- The project replaces aging infrastructure and is intended to reduce the need for ongoing costly repairs.
- The investment provides a modern facility designed to serve students and the community.

11. How can I determine my household tax impact?

- Financing projections anticipate the first project-related debt service in Fiscal Year 2028, with the financial impact increasing over the following several years as construction borrowing transitions to long-term bonds. The debt service is expected to reach its more consistent annual level beginning around Fiscal Year 2031.
- **Use the tax impact calculator at fctsnewbuildingproject.us.**
- Select your municipality and enter your assessed property value
- The calculator is a planning tool. Actual impacts will depend on final project costs, financing, and local tax rates.
- Contact your town assessor for information about available exemptions or assistance programs.

Estimated average annual household increase by member town

Member Town	Estimated Average Home Increase	Member Town	Estimated Average Home Increase
Bernardston	\$227.83	Montague	\$205.19
Buckland	\$232.32	New Salem	\$229.02
Colrain	\$190.91	Northfield	\$198.15
Conway	\$248.42	Orange	\$239.57
Deerfield	\$284.98	Shelburne	\$237.37
Erving	\$86.82	Sunderland	\$334.66
Gill	\$242.83	Warwick	\$202.92
Greenfield	\$253.71	Wendell	\$184.59
Heath	\$169.84	Whately	\$250.66
Leyden	\$240.84		

12. How many new positions will be created with this project?

- The project is not expected to create a direct increase in staffing because the new building will continue to support the same educational programs currently offered by FCTS.
- The goal is to provide improved, more efficient spaces for students and staff rather than expand staffing needs.

13. Will the building be energy efficient? Will it be less expensive to operate?

- The new school is designed with hybrid geothermal and air-source HVAC systems, energy-efficient lighting and controls, Stretch Energy Code compliance, and LEED certification goals.
- The project may qualify for energy rebates and tax credits that could further offset project costs.

- Updated building systems, energy-efficient features, and reduced maintenance needs are expected to improve operational efficiency.
- While the larger, modern facility may result in some additional operating costs, these increases are expected to be partially offset by improved efficiency, lower maintenance demands, and reduced energy consumption compared with the current aging building.

14. What is the student enrollment of the new school? What is the maximum enrollment?

- MSBA design enrollment for the new building is 600 students at 80% capacity.
- With the additional Vet Tech and Aviation buildings, the campus targets 636 students.
- The District plans to maintain current enrollment levels of approximately 670 students.
- The facility has flexibility to house up to 736 students, if needed.
- FCTS was mindful not to overbuild, given the region's current declining population trend and the desire to maintain healthy regional options for students.

15. What programs will the new school support?

- The project supports all current FCTS Career Technical Education (CTE) and academic programs.
- Updated, industry-aligned spaces will enhance student learning.
- The project includes modern shops, labs, classrooms, and technology to support hands-on training, workforce development, and future program growth while meeting current industry and safety standards.
- A full list of current programs is available at fcts.us.

16. How will this new building address modern educational needs?

- The new school is designed to meet MSBA, DESE, and Chapter 74 vocational education standards.
- Modern, industry-standard labs and shops will support hands-on career preparation.
- Advanced technology and flexible learning spaces will support group, multidisciplinary, and project-based learning.
- The building will create a safer, healthier learning environment by addressing existing deficiencies in ventilation, electrical power, and other building systems.
- Purpose-built spaces will better prepare students for today's workforce and future careers while supporting evolving technologies, industry practices, and educational programs.

17. Does the proposed project include a new stadium, sports fields, and parking?

- The project does not include construction of a new stadium. To help control costs, the existing football field and track will be retained.
- The baseball and softball fields will need to be relocated or replaced as part of the project to improve site circulation, safety, and emergency access.
- Site improvements include parking and traffic-flow enhancements to support a safe and efficient campus while meeting current requirements.
- The focus remains on providing a modern educational facility that supports students, CTE programs, and the community.

- The existing Aviation Hangar and Animal Science outbuildings will be retained and continue to be used for educational purposes. They are not included in the scope of the new building project.

18. How does this affect the entire community?

• **Economic benefits:**

- A well-trained workforce that supports local businesses and regional economic growth
- Retaining graduates can help strengthen and grow the local population
- Greater economic vibrancy

• **Value of skilled trades:**

- Provides students with career pathways that encourage graduates to stay in the region, live locally, and contribute to the community.
- Graduates are provided the skills and training to start businesses, become employers, and create future jobs in the region

• **Adult education and lifelong learning:**

- Expanded opportunities for adult learners to gain new skills, pursue certifications, and strengthen the local workforce

19. Who is overseeing the project? What is the MSBA and what is its role?

- **Local** oversight is provided by the School Building Committee, including educators, school leaders, parents, town officials, and industry representatives.
- **State** oversight includes the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).
- **Colliers Project Leaders** serves as the **Owner's Project Manager**.
- **Lavallee Brensinger Associates** is the project **Architect**, supported by 17 sub-consultants with expertise in areas such as engineering, energy, construction cost estimating, and environmental investigations.
- The MSBA:
 - Partners with Massachusetts communities to fund and oversee public school building projects
 - Was created by the Legislature in 2004 and is supported by a dedicated revenue stream
 - Expected to reimburse 66.27% of eligible costs for this project
 - Uses a nine-step process designed to ensure rigorous educational, fiscal, and safety standards
 - Learn more about MSBA at: <https://www.massschoolbuildings.org/>

Project information: fctsnewbuildingproject.us | FCTS: fcts.us | MSBA: [massschoolbuildings.org](https://www.massschoolbuildings.org)



SUSTAINABILITY STUDY: ONE PAGE OVERVIEW

Spring 2026

What is the Sustainability Study?

The 2 district 8 towns Sustainability Committee was organized to study and analyze the operating and organizational structures of the Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont school districts in light of ongoing **enrollment, fiscal and educational pressures**. Formed in early 2024, the Committee's goal is to develop a plan to provide students with a broad array of **high-quality educational opportunities** that prepare them for future success – in college, career and life – and to do so in a sustainable way that our rural towns can afford.

This document provides stakeholders with a concise, factual summary of the 2D8T Sustainability Study, the Steering Committee's recommended Plan of Action, and the ongoing work being done to provide additional detail to the Plan and address questions raised by stakeholders. We encourage informed dialogue and constructive feedback as this process continues.

Why Conduct the Study

Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont face critical challenges that affect most rural districts: **declining enrollment, rising costs, flat state aid, and increasing student needs**. Without action, these challenges will continue to produce budget deficits, cuts to educational programming and staff, rising town assessments, and limited academic and social opportunities for students.

How the Study Was Conducted

Over 16+ months, the Steering Committee, composed of community members and district leadership, supported and reviewed in-depth analysis of current **educational programming, enrollment, staffing, finance, facilities, and transportation**. Initial findings were shared in extensive outreach communities and staff, and the input received has helped shape the ongoing work.

Models Examined

After reviewing 177 ideas offered by stakeholders and staff, 5 operational models were selected for detailed review:

Status Quo

change to existing operations

Partial Elementary Consolidation

consolidate elementary students into fewer schools

Create a Single PreK-12 Campus

consolidate all elementary schools and create a single K-12 on the Mohawk Trail site

Move Grade 6

create a Grade 6-8 middle school on the Mohawk Trail

Key Findings of Comprehensive Option Analysis

- Maintaining the **Status Quo** does not address existing fiscal or educational challenges.
- A single campus provides the greatest opportunity for long-term **fiscal Sustainability**.
- Larger student bodies best support **robust academic and social** environments; ensure **equitable access** to academics, student supports, co- and extra-curricular activities; and encourage **strong professional collaboration**.
- Creating a single campus will require **some modifications** to existing Mohawk Trail facilities.

SUSTAINABILITY STUDY OVERVIEW (CONTINUED)

✓ Steering Committee Recommendation

In Spring 2025, The Steering Committee and both School Committees voted to pursue the aspirational goal of **educating all students** at a **single PK-12 campus at Mohawk Trail**. – and to complete additional work to better understand potential outcomes, address community concerns and develop detailed operational and educational plans. This goal would be achieved gradually over 5-7 years.

Key Benefits Identified:

✦ Robust Academics

✦ Maximum Economies of Scale

✦ Unique Programming Accessible to All Students

✦ Enhanced Sports, Music, Theatre via larger student body

✦ Centralized/Shared Staffing

✦ Greater Opportunities for Staff Learning/Collaboration

✦ Fiscal Savings

✦ Improved learning facilities

👤 Staffing & Programming

Impact: Centralized staffing results in (estimated) 41-65 fewer staff across all roles.

Goal: To the extent possible, manage reductions through retirement and staff turnover.

⚠️ What Has NOT Been Decided

No specific decisions have been made. Educational visioning work (now underway) will determine specific needs.

🌐 Current and Future Planning

Phase III focuses on **planning, not implementation**. Key activities include:

- ✦ Developing a detailed education vision (all grades)
- ✦ Analyzing staffing impact
- ✦ Refining transportation models
- ✦ Creating detailed financial projections
- ✦ Exploring economic and social impacts on communities
- ✦ Developing a new Regional Agreement (details changes)
- ✦ Investigating school building re-use

Fall 2025- Summer 2026	Fall 2026 – Winter 2027	Winter 2027– Spring 2028	Late Fall 2028	3-5 years, 2032 or later
● Complete operational planning and educational visioning	● Secure funding for full facilities planning (Town Vote or other sources)	● Complete regional agreement with significant community input	● Vote to approve regional agreement Vote to authorize capital for facilities modifications	● Construction New campus opens 2030 or later

Bottom Line: The Sustainability Study identifies a structured pathway to address our current challenges. It does not mandate immediate change. Community input remains essential. **Nothing happens without a unanimous vote of all 8 towns.**

Good

1 ALS and 1 BLS
Limited Time
(GOOD)

Total Budget \$1,369,420

Calls for Service		Population		Model Name		Weight - Calls		Weight - Population		Weight - EQV		Calculated Share (%)		Assessment	
Town Name	(4-yr avg)	(resident)	EQV (\$)	Model Name											
Hawley	24	353	\$ 65,414,600	Model 6 – Demand + residents + ability to pay		45%	45%	45%	10%	3%	\$ 40,892				
Leyden	30	734	\$ 124,635,700	Model 6 – Demand + residents + ability to pay		45%	45%	45%	10%	5%	\$ 73,989				
Heath	72	723	\$ 125,842,500	Model 6 – Demand + residents + ability to pay		45%	45%	45%	10%	7%	\$ 95,338				
Charlemont	289	1,185	\$ 193,884,300	Model 6 – Demand + residents + ability to pay		45%	45%	45%	10%	18%	\$ 245,457				
Shelburne	466	1,884	\$ 355,710,200	Model 6 – Demand + residents + ability to pay		45%	45%	45%	10%	29%	\$ 396,106				
Colrain	176	1,606	\$ 226,340,100	Model 6 – Demand + residents + ability to pay		45%	45%	45%	10%	16%	\$ 217,490				
Buckland	78	1,816	\$ 301,585,500	Model 6 – Demand + residents + ability to pay		45%	45%	45%	10%	13%	\$ 184,693				
Rowe	38	424	\$ 1,279,179,000	Model 6 – Demand + residents + ability to pay		45%	45%	45%	10%	8%	\$ 115,455				
Hawley	24	353	\$ 65,414,600	Model 7 – Demand + residents		50%	50%	50%	0%	3%	\$ 41,712				
Leyden	30	734	\$ 124,635,700	Model 7 – Demand + residents		50%	50%	50%	0%	5%	\$ 75,114				
Heath	72	723	\$ 125,842,500	Model 7 – Demand + residents		50%	50%	50%	0%	7%	\$ 98,767				
Charlemont	289	1,185	\$ 193,884,300	Model 7 – Demand + residents		50%	50%	50%	0%	19%	\$ 261,692				
Shelburne	466	1,884	\$ 355,710,200	Model 7 – Demand + residents		50%	50%	50%	0%	31%	\$ 419,866				
Colrain	176	1,606	\$ 226,340,100	Model 7 – Demand + residents		50%	50%	50%	0%	17%	\$ 228,769				
Buckland	78	1,816	\$ 301,585,500	Model 7 – Demand + residents		50%	50%	50%	0%	14%	\$ 188,044				
Rowe	38	424	\$ 1,279,179,000	Model 7 – Demand + residents		50%	50%	50%	0%	4%	\$ 55,456				

TOWN OF HEATH

MASSACHUSETTS



TOWN COORDINATOR

TOWN COORDINATOR UPDATES

September 22, 2026

JACOBS ROAD MUNICIPAL CENTER ROOF LEAK

09/10/2026 - Tim spoke with Titan Roofing, and the repair was NOT on the new section of the roof. Apparently, the workers found three different holes in that section of the roof that were causing the leak, but they were able to patch everything. They gave the disclaimer that the patches are bulky and noticeable, but they will hold up. He is going to be getting up onto the roof to take some pictures of the patches.

GREEN COMMUNITIES GRANT.

09/10/2026 - Robyn contacted Jami at JAMROG and she is reaching back out to MassSave and her contacts at National Grid to see if she can speed this up. She explained that MassSave tends to move at a snail's pace.

09/14/2026 – I received an email from MassSave that says that they received our rebate submission and their current processing time is six to eight weeks. Let's hope that's not true!

DEERFIELD RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION, WILD & SCENIC INITIATIVE

09/10/2026 - Christopher Curtis from the DRWA will be at the Select Board meeting on October 27th at 5:00PM. I still have not heard from the Conservation Commission as to whether any of their members plan on attending.

TOWN CENTER ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

09/10/2026 - Mack Brothers Elevator believes they may have one more ace up their sleeves. They are waiting to hear back from someone at another company and will let me know as soon as they do. In the meantime, I've notified our Account Executive at MIIA of our issues with Liberty Mutual and the claim progress. He assured me that he'd have an update tomorrow.

09/11/2026 – Our Account Executive didn't have an update but called to let me know that he's still working on getting us an update and a clear path forward.

09/15/2026 – I spoke with one of the claims managers who informed me that we do NOT have to wait for Liberty Mutual to move forward once we receive a new recommendation from Mack Brothers Elevator. If Liberty Mutual DOES decide to cover this claim, they will reimburse MIIA directly. Our coverage for this claim will be under MIIA's property coverage.

HEATH SALT SHED RETAINING WALL

TOWN OF HEATH

MASSACHUSETTS



TOWN COORDINATOR

09/15/2026 – According to Tyson, the wall is complete! I still have not received an invoice from W. R. Hillman for the initial site work or the retaining wall. I will be reaching out to request that he send me both invoices as soon as possible.

ROLLER

09/10/2026 - The company that gave Tyson the original quotes for the roller and trailer had claimed to be on the State bid list; however, they are not. I had Tyson call every vendor on the State bid list and none of them sell the brand roller that we need. I am working with Boston to try and find a solution. The woman who manages that category of State contracts believes she may be able to make something work.

BURNT HILL-CATAMOUNT TRAIL ENFORCEMENT ORDER

No Updates

TOWN NURSE POSITION

09/10/2026 - I drafted an offer letter that Gene is reviewing. Once he gets back to me with any edits he has, I'll send the letter to Rachel.

09/11/2026 – I sent an offer letter to Rachel via email and snail mail.

09/17/2026 – Rachel accepted the offer and proposed a start date of October 20th. The Board of Health should be coordinating the logistics of her first day. I imagine that they will be informing Claire as well but will make sure that Claire is informed when I see her. Rachel will be coming to the Jacobs Road Municipal Center, since she has never been, before that date so that I can give her a tour and all necessary employment paperwork.

TOWN CENTER KIOSK

No Updates

JACOBS ROAD MUNICIPAL CENTER SIGN

09/10/2026 - I still haven't heard back from Jason or received any invoices. I will follow up with him soon.

09/11/2026 – Jason sent me an email that the total cost will be \$2,400.00. This is \$200.00 above the original estimate of \$2,200.00. He explained that he's chosen to donate some of the labor as he decided to add additional details that resulted in a better final-product but were outside of the design that was requested. We're coordinating delivery of the invoice. I will write up a thank you note that you guys can sign for donating his time on those details that will be sent with payment.

09/18/2026 – I have not heard back from Jason about how he'd like to get me the invoice.

TOWN OF HEATH

MASSACHUSETTS



TOWN COORDINATOR

SAWYER HALL RAMP

No Updates

#2 HEATING OIL FOR TOWN BUILDINGS

09/14/2026 – I spoke with the folks in Boston, and they are releasing a new blanket contract option on October 1st that we will be able to take advantage of. I plan on doing just that once it is released. For now, I have placed an order with the vendor for our zone for heating oil under the current blanket contract which expires on September 30th to purchase about a thousand gallons of oil. Tim thinks that a thousand gallons will last us until the end of October, which should be plenty of time to get on the list for the new blanket contract which begins on October 1st. The thousand gallons should be delivered by the end of this week or early next week.

ROUTE 8A (JACKSONVILLE STAGE ROAD CULVERT PROJECT)

09/10/2026 - I met with Counsel before I went on vacation to go over the easement process and review the draft cover letter. I will be making some revisions to the letter before we send out the waivers of appraisal and damages. The STRAP and Rural Development Fund awards will be announced in October. The Municipal Small Bridge awards should be announced in November or December.

FLAGG HILL ROAD BRANCH

No Updates

NATIONAL GRID 3-PHASE PROJECT

No Updates

CULTURAL FACILITIES GRANT

No Updates

SAWYER HALL HEATING SYSTEM

09/14/2026 – Tim doesn't believe that the electrical work is included in the estimate from White Heating. He is going to contact Glenn White to verify this and to get confirmation that this will fix the issue with the upstairs offices overheating.

BOARDS CLERK POSITION

No Updates

SAWYER HALL HOT WATER HEATER (*PREVIOUSLY LISTED AS COMMUNITY HALL*)

09/10/2026 - Hartnett will be installing the new hot water heater next week.

09/18/2026 – The hot water heater has been installed and is fully functioning.