

# TMMA Warrant Information Report



## Fall 2015 Special Town Meeting Addendum – STM#1

This report has been prepared by the Town Meeting Members Association to provide information to Town Meeting Members concerning the articles of the warrant for Special Town Meeting #1. TMMA thanks town officials, town staff, and members of boards and committees for their assistance in providing information for this report. Please note that all dollar amounts listed in this report are NOT final. The final dollar amounts will be provided in motions presented at the Special Town Meeting.

A special thanks goes to Elaine Ashton for preparing Article 2.

For new and updated information, please refer to the  
TMMA website at  
[www.LexingtonTMMA.org](http://www.LexingtonTMMA.org)

Please refer to the financial committees' reports for  
further information.

## ARTICLE 2 APPROPRIATE FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES CAPITAL PROJECTS

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for: continuing the school facility master planning study for specific capital projects for the Fiske, Hastings and Harrington Elementary Schools and the Clarke and Diamond Middle Schools; design, engineering and architectural services for these projects; and for the related remodeling, reconstruction or making extraordinary repairs to these or other school facilities; for the construction of the buildings, including original equipment and landscaping, paving and other site improvements incidental or directly related to such remodeling, reconstruction or repair, determine whether the money shall be provided by the tax levy, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing, or by any combination of these methods; determine if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to apply for, accept, expend and borrow in anticipation of state aid for such capital improvements; or act in any other manner in relation thereto.

*(Inserted by the School Committee)*

FUNDS REQUESTED: unknown at press time

DESCRIPTION: This article is to request funding for the studies, design and construction of school facilities to address current and anticipated school enrollment.

### TMMA OVERVIEW

Addressing the school enrollment space needs to come up at the Fall Special Town Meeting began with a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee in late June. Discussions continued throughout the summer and at a September joint meeting, the public was made aware of the possible purchase of the Armenian Sisters Academy in addressing the space need. The Board of Selectmen, School Committee and the financial committees continued to meet through the Fall culminating in a November 12 Summit Meeting. Concern was expressed about the tax levy impact of the financial projections. After some expense paring was done, a following Summit Meeting was held on November 23.

Based on the latest information (12/1), this article is requesting the appropriation of \$5.4 million dollars for the design documents for Clarke and Diamond Middle Schools and Hastings Elementary School and for the design, site preparation, and acquisition of six modular classrooms to be installed at Bridge, Bowman and Fiske Elementary Schools, or some combination thereof to address current, and anticipated, future enrollment. Financial details of these projects may be found in the Appropriation Committee Report for this article.

Purpose	Appropriation
Diamond (design)	\$1,212,000
Clarke (design)	\$739,000
Hastings (design)	\$520,000
Six modular classrooms (design, site prep, acquisition)	\$2,915,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,386,000</b>

(The above table taken from the Appropriation Committee report for reference.)

The appropriation of funds for the design documents, and modular classrooms, will ensure that progress will continue while the changing capital plan continues to be refined. The funds need to be available for continuing the design work in order to stay on track with the timeline of creating enrollment capacity as soon as possible. There will be schedule of funding for each project outlined with an opportunity to stop or continue funding for a project. Under the Artifice, six modular classrooms will be purchased to alleviate existing space needs at two or more of the elementary schools. If the funds are not appropriated, the design documents for the projects will not progress past January and the modular classrooms will not be ready by Fall 2016.

**The proposed timeline for space being made:**

**Fall 2016:**

*Elementary:*

- \* Six modular classrooms and redistricting to available classroom space at Hastings and Estabrook
- \* Potential for using art or music rooms across the district for general education classrooms

**Fall 2017:**

*Middle School:*

- \* Clarke

**Fall 2018:**

*Elementary:*

- \* Non-MSBA funded Hastings yielding 9 additional classrooms

*Middle School:*

- \* Diamond

**Fall 2019:**

- \* MSBA funded Hastings yielding 9 additional classrooms

The only new space at the elementary or the middle school level before 2017 are the six modular classrooms. If the appropriation request is not approved, the modular classrooms will not be available by Fall 2016, and all other potential space availability will be delayed.

**Expected life of the modular classrooms:**

Currently, it is expected to need them until the new Hastings Elementary School is completed but, if enrollment projections prove accurate we will require them for a longer amount of time, which is why purchasing them, rather than leasing them, has been recommended as the more fiscally sound course of action.

**Redistricting and the impact:**

Redistricting will occur in Fall 2016. There will be potentially 1 classroom at Hastings and 3-5 classrooms at Estabrook which will be used for that purpose. The modular classrooms will not be used for redistricting since they will provide space at schools which are currently over enrollment capacity. There is a possibility that additional space may have to be made by using art rooms for general education purposes and move art education into the classroom (art on a cart).

**TMMA Questions**

**Question #1:** Will the MSBA decision have an impact on the currently proposed projects?

**Answer #1:** It might, but it is unknown at this time if the MSBA will approve the request for funding the replacement of Hastings Elementary School.

**Question 2:** Will the Pre-K/LCP program be moved to Minuteman Tech?

**Answer #2:** No, the School Committee decided not to pursue the lease and the space has already been taken by another interested party. The LCP will remain at Harrington Elementary School, but will need more space soon. A new location has yet to be determined.

### **ARTICLE 3**

### **LAND PURCHASE AND IMPROVEMENTS - 20 PELHAM ROAD**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to purchase or otherwise acquire, or to take by eminent domain for municipal or school purposes, any fee, easement, or other interest in all or any part of land known as 20 Pelham Road and shown as lot 65A on AssessorsøProperty Map 31, owned by the Congregation of Armenian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, Inc.; for design, engineering and architectural services for plans and specifications and related costs; and to make access and site improvements and to remodel, reconstruct and make extraordinary repairs to the existing school building on such property; and to appropriate a sum of money therefor and determine whether the money shall be provided by the tax levy, by transfer from available funds, or by borrowing, or by any combination of these methods; or act in any other manner in relation thereto.

*(Inserted by the Board of Selectmen)*

FUNDS REQUESTED: unknown at press time

DESCRIPTION: This article requests funding to purchase the property at 20 Pelham Road for municipal or school purposes and to make access and site improvements, remodel, reconstruct and make extraordinary repairs to the existing school building on the property.

## **TMMA OVERVIEW**

It is anticipated that this article will be indefinitely postponed, negotiations are not at the point where the proposed purchase can come to Town Meeting.

### **TMMA Question**

**Question #1:** Will a Special Town Meeting be needed prior to the 2016 Annual Town Meeting?

**Answer #1:** Based on the timing of the negotiations it is possible but a date is not known at this time.

#### **ARTICLE 4**

#### **APPROPRIATE FOR ENGINEERING STUDY – 20 PELHAM ROAD**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for engineering studies and related costs for access roads and sidewalks connecting Pelham Road, the property at 20 Pelham Road and the Community Center at 39 Marrett Road and Marrett Road and any improvements that may be necessary to Pelham Road to access 20 Pelham Road; determine whether the money shall be provided by the tax levy, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing, or any combination of these methods; or act in any other manner in relation thereto.

*(Inserted by the Board of Selectmen)*

FUNDS REQUESTED: unknown at press time

DESCRIPTION: Should Town Meeting approve the purchase of the 20 Pelham Road property, This Article would fund the engineering study for roadways and sidewalks to connect this property to the Community Center property, Marrett Road and Massachusetts Avenue.

#### **TMMA OVERVIEW**

Funds are being requested for schematic design documents for the access road but the funding amount is unknown at the time of printing of this report.