



February 14, 2020

Dear NRSD Students, Faculty, and Parents,

NRSD continues to work towards beginning its journey of working with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) in the "Eligibility Period" for NRHS as of June 1, 2020. We are completing early efforts as we ramp up to enter into the initial MSBA stage.

The focus of a prior memo was on anticipated large-scale projects that NRSD recognizes it will need to address in upcoming years at the current facility. This memo provides additional highlights of perceived areas of general deficiencies and concerns:

### **Classroom Concerns**

- Science labs cannot be offered for all science courses due to lack of space and conditions. Labs frequently experience overcrowding as a result of student and course needs.
- Due to uneven and poor heat distribution, students are frequently asked to wear coats to certain classrooms during cold winter months.
- Not all science labs have exhaust fans.
- Space is currently limited for English Language Learner classrooms, guidance, and counseling needs.
- There are a total of 70 areas used for classroom purposes, although not all of these areas were designed nor intended to be classrooms. Several "classrooms" have been created from areas that were never intended to be classrooms – they have no windows and have uneven or minimal heating.

### **General Facility Concerns**

- Parking in general, continues to be problematic – there are not enough spaces available to support the demand.
- Multiple exterior doors are rotting at the bottoms of the unit.
- Student lockers are at a premium – there are not enough lockers for all students. This creates multiple issues, including overcrowding in the hallways between classes while students access them.
- All windows in the common areas, such as hallways, are single pane glass and have no proper insulation factor attached to them.
- Windows require upgrading and replacing.
- The school store operates out of a closet space.
- Hallways are dark and narrow; they are frequently used for additional classroom and study hall space.
- Many areas in the building do not meet current building codes.

### **Cafeteria/Kitchen Concerns**

- The student cafeteria presents multiple issues – it is cramped, it has very poor acoustics, and it is a source of anxiety for students.
- Due to the cafeteria size, administration must build the entire high school schedule/timetable around the cafeteria use because of its inability to handle the student population in a single sitting.
- The cafeteria kitchen hosts original equipment that requires updating, particularly in the area of plumbing. Grease back-ups are constant and create ongoing issues. The grease trap is undersized for the current student population.
- The HVAC unit that supplies heat to the kitchen area is designed improperly and draws warm air directly out of the kitchen, including during winter months

### **Gymnasium/Locker rooms Concerns**

- Student locker rooms do not have proper ventilation. "Fresh air" is pulled from the Upper Gymnasium and redistributed to locker rooms - this leads to stale conditions and overwhelming odors.
- Locker rooms are outdated (i.e. open shower in boys' locker room, not enough lockers for students, size of lockers are inadequate, limited storage space, etc.)
- Gymnasiums are overused and serve multiple student and program needs.
- Gym bleachers are nearing their end of life span.
- Storage space is at a minimum. Storage space in the upper gymnasium is a corner of the gym that has been marked off by duct tape to indicate its parameters. Similar storage concerns exist throughout the building.

### **Auditorium Concerns**

- Auditorium desperately needs repairs. It is not equipped for this era in terms of basic technology.
- Auditorium lacks adequate lighting/sound boards to handle shows, concerts, or assemblies.
- Current sound system is outdated, including a soundboard that is too small to manage live sound
- There are three wired microphone connections.
- The wireless microphones purchased 15 years ago are obsolete due to FCC licensing airwave frequencies they operate on.
- Storage is not adequate for the fine arts department needs – hallways are used for purposes of storage.
- The drama department stores props/costumes/building materials in 4 locations, including some on-stage storage.

Those items listed in this memo are examples of additional concerns and do not represent an exhaustive list.

We will continue to build on supporting general community awareness regarding facility issues at NRHS. A district communications committee has been created to support our efforts in this area. Additional information will be forthcoming in upcoming weeks.

We see this journey and partnership with the Massachusetts School Building Authority as an opportunity to think broadly about instruction and education into the next decade for our up and coming high school students. We are excited to be travelling down this pathway.

Thank you for your continued support.



Brooke Clenchy  
Superintendent of Schools