

**RESOLUTION BY THE FRAMINGHAM DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE
ENDORING THE FULLER MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT
VOTE YES FOR FULLER ON DECEMBER 11, 2018**

WHEREAS, the effort to proactively fix the Fuller Middle School's infrastructure challenges has been in the works for more than six years as part of a transparent, fiscally responsible, detail-oriented, and community-led process to address a significant challenge in our city and secure tens of millions of dollars in state funding;

WHEREAS, improving education is central to our democratic principles and the character of Framingham, and investing in education is also proven to benefit our community, our property values, and our economic growth. With this project, Framingham has created an opportunity to better support student achievement and educator effectiveness by upgrading old infrastructure long overdue for a change.

WHEREAS, proper infrastructure supports student achievement. When our schools achieve, our school district's evaluations and reputation improve, increasing our city's desirability, our property values, and our economic growth;

WHEREAS, this proposed project serves to correct a major equity problem amongst the city's three middle schools, as Cameron and Walsh's infrastructure and educational layout are both excellent and are well sited facilities. The new school will promote and allow for educational parity with three elementary schools sending students to each of our three middle schools; and

WHEREAS, Fuller Middle School is the number one capital infrastructure priority in the City of Framingham. The building has served us well since it was built and opened in the early 1950s. Yet, while the school is safe for current occupants, it is not up to code, requires constant maintenance due to structural deficiencies, has zero insulation, and does not adequately support our educational vision, and the varied needs of our students, families, educators, and community users;

WHEREAS, in 2013, the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) agreed Fuller was at the end of its useful life and invited Framingham into their selective process. The MSBA is the state agency charged with overseeing and supporting school improvement projects with state grants. The MSBA has rigorous standards with defined funding calculations for communities to balance affordability with each community's infrastructure needs. If approved by Framingham's voters, the MSBA will grant \$39.5 million for the project;

WHEREAS, a School Building Committee comprised of parents, teachers, and engineers, alongside government and elected officials, have met more than 25 times in public meetings and with the benefit of public input, developed, revised, and finalized plans for Fuller;

WHEREAS, the new Fuller will provide a community hub with a new 420-seat auditorium, gymnasium, athletic fields, and green space – resources that will be available beyond school hours and all year long. The open space will become a new civic symbol and destination for the City for a variety of hosted events;

WHEREAS, a new Fuller is needed to support the vision of leadership in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) for the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, the project has numerous environmental benefits. The building will be LEED Certified, have the opportunity for rooftop solar, and will exceed the new Massachusetts Energy Code by at least 20%, which is very efficient. The compact design dramatically reduces the building footprint from what stands today - providing increased green space for community use and enjoyment – and will protect all wetlands around the Fuller site;

WHEREAS, the new structure is also set back from the street, which removes the bus traffic from Flagg Drive, minimizing neighborhood impact;

WHEREAS, we applaud the former Town Meeting members and Town Government leaders for proactively depositing \$8 million over four years into the Capital Project Stabilization Fund in anticipation of this moment, reducing total costs to taxpayers;

WHEREAS, we applaud the School Building Committee for their collaborative cost reduction measures this year, saving at least \$12.2 million as they balanced affordability with the prioritization of the educational need of our students, educators, and the community;.

WHEREAS, we applaud the School Building Committee for choosing a less expensive option of \$98.3 million for new construction versus a renovation that would cost \$131 million to bring the building up to code with no educational improvements, without any \$39.5 million state grant, and producing a bigger burden on taxpayers;

WHEREAS, this is a debt exclusion with an end date, not an override which is permanent. This project would have a 20-year payment plan, with the first year costing the most, and the last year costing the least;

WHEREAS, a special election in Framingham to allow voters to decide this project's future is scheduled for Tuesday, December 11, 2018;

WHEREAS, a municipal ballot question committee has been formed by parents and community leaders to seek to provide voters with the information they need to vote Yes and secure millions of dollars of state funding in order to replace the aging Fuller Middle School with a state-of-the-art facility;

WHEREAS, approving this project that has been thoughtfully vetted is part of our generational responsibility and is the right thing to do fiscally and educationally; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Framingham Democratic Committee endorses the ballot question, praises the long-term, fiscally responsible, detail-oriented, and transparent process to replace Fuller Middle School, and encourages all voters to vote Yes for Fuller on December 11, 2018.

ADOPTED, by a vote of _____ in favor _____ against, this 21st day of October, 2018.

Beverly Hugo
Chair, Framingham Democratic Committee