Why Act Now?

- Gardner has not built a new school since 1996
- Gardner has not built a true elementary school since the 1800s
- Gardner base reimbursement rate is 80% of eligible costs - the highest rate allowed by MSBA.
- Including all reimbursable and non-reimbursable costs, MSBA will reimburse the city for approximately 60% of the project costs
- An opportunity to provide new facilities for the entire elementary school population
- Keep Gardner students in Gardner - reducing choice out & out of district placement
- PK-4 approach is most efficient in terms of square feet per student, as well as cost per square foot

What Will it Cost?

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATED COSTS TO BE REFINED AT THE END OF SCHEMATIC DESIGN

TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT BUDGET $83-89 M
includes furniture, fixtures, equipment & construction contingencies

ESTIMATED REIMBURSABLE BY MSBA $48-52 M

ESTIMATED GARDNER OBLIGATION $36-40 M

What Does it Cost to Do Nothing?

- Repairs and accessibility upgrades at Waterford Street and Elm Street schools will cost $20-40 million.

Project Timeline

- The current Schematic Design phase ends in July 2019
- If the project is approved by the City, a year of developing construction documents is required
- Construction of the new school could begin in 2020
- The school could open as early as September of 2022

For more information, visit:

www.gardnerk12.org/944/New-School-Building
Why is a New School Needed?

Drainage Issues:
- Poorly draining area at lower roof - Waterford Street
- Evidence of groundwater in crawl space - Waterford Street

Aged Systems:
- Original unit ventilators - Waterford Street
- Corrosion on Main Service pull box - Elm Street

Worn Interior Finishes:
- Flooring at Waterford Street
- Ceiling at Elm Street

Buildings not Designed for Younger Students:
- Waterford Street designed as a middle school
- Elm Street originally designed as a high school

Undersized Classrooms:
- Waterford PK and Kinder classrooms are 25% under state guidelines
- Many Elm Street classrooms are 45% under state guidelines

Benefits of a PreK - Grade 4 Facility
- Equitable access to 21st century education
- Fewer school transitions for youngest students
- Ability for staff to collaborate, share ideas and resources
- Mentoring opportunities between older/younger students
- Least expensive option when considering dollars/student
- Meets District's goal of all PK-4 students in one building

Design of the New School
- Organized into grade level “neighborhoods” for collaboration
- PK and K housed in the south wing
- 1st-3rd grades in the north wing
- 4th grade in the central core
- Community spaces located in the center of the building, including a Cafetorium, Gym, and Library

Pearl Street Location

Features of the Site
- Next to the Middle School/High School campus
- District to share resources between the three schools
- Natural woodland site provides younger students special opportunities for learning and play

Site Circulation
- Long entry drive allows for bus and car queuing
- Car drop-off and pick-up loop is separate from bus drop-off loop
- Parking provided for approximately 200 cars
- Separate Pre-K entry
- Two access roads allows for greater flexibility and site safety

“A School in the Woods”
- School design and site works with existing hills, natural wetlands, and will meet all permitting requirements
- Stormwater will be treated on site via raingardens and underground infiltration
- Excavation, cutting, and filling will be balanced so material will be used on site
- Playgrounds immerse students in nature - the best environment for learning

Site Section - showing tiered parking and balanced cut and fill