



Best Use of Educational Facilities: Hull Public Schools

A Consultant Study by
Mars Consulting Group
May 2020

MARS Consulting Group

(Massachusetts Associations of Regional Schools)

- ◆ **MCG is a consulting group that was formed over ten (10) years ago**
- ◆ **The Group assists school districts with a broad set of issues such as declining enrollment/school closures**
- ◆ **The group is comprised of retired public school superintendents**
- ◆ **A team of four professionals assigned to Hull**
 - ◆ **Supported by The Abrahams Group**

Consultant Team

- ◆ **Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools Consulting Group**
 - ◆ Jay Barry, Team Leader
 - ◆ Paul Gagliarducci
 - ◆ Steve Hemman, Lead Consultant
 - ◆ Mac Reid
- ◆ **Abrahams Group**
 - ◆ Mark Abrahams



The Abrahams Group

Why the Study?

- ◆ **Continued decline in enrollment at all levels**
- ◆ **Public concern over excess space**
- ◆ **Sustainability of programs**
- ◆ **Projected fiscal constraints**
- ◆ **Solutions from “eyes from the outside”**



Methodology

- ♦ Visited the district numerous times
- ♦ Met with a variety of constituency groups
- ♦ Held extensive discussions with the district's administrative team and town officials
- ♦ Reviewed previous studies and district publications
 - ♦ Hull Strategic Plan
 - ♦ Program of Studies
 - ♦ Massachusetts School Building Authority Statement of Interest
 - ♦ Collective bargaining agreements
 - ♦ Current and previous budget documents

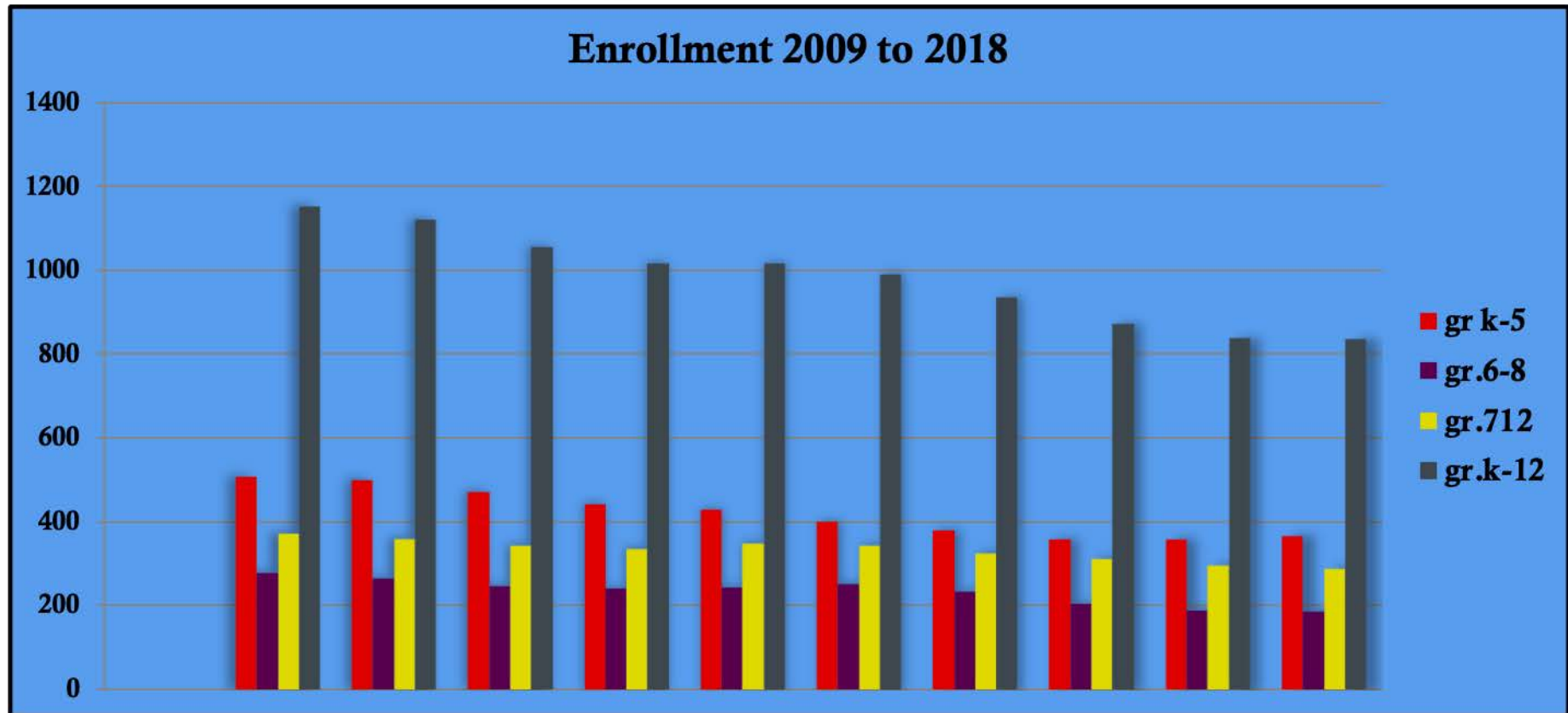


Defining Hull

- ◆ **Part of Greater Boston Region**
- ◆ **A peninsula that juts into the Boston Harbor**
- ◆ **Relies heavily on tourism**
- ◆ **Known as a summer vacation spot**
- ◆ **Population increases in summer due to summer residents**
- ◆ **Becoming a retirement community**
- ◆ **Not attracting young families although housing prices are an affordable alternative for area**



Enrollment Trends

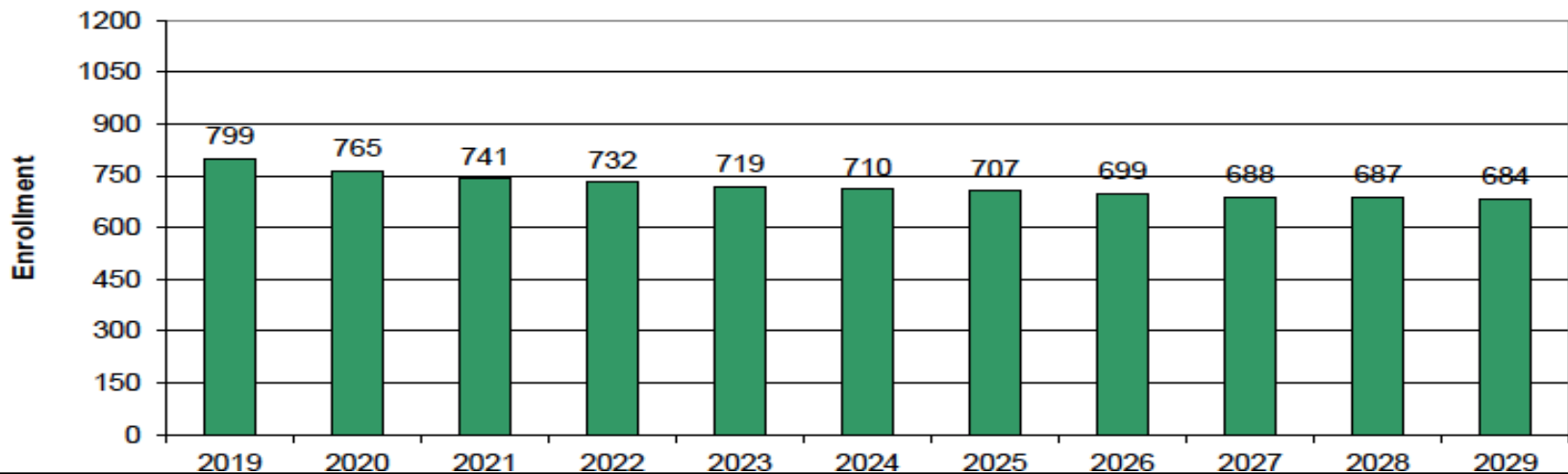


Future Enrollment Trends

NESDEC

Hull, MA Projected Enrollment

K-12 To 2029 Based On Data Through School Year 2019-20



Hull's School Facilities



Hull High School

- ◆ Capacity = 405 Current = 287
- ◆ Well maintained
- ◆ Renovated 2002
- ◆ Long-range repair est. = \$9.2M
- ◆ 100 and 500 year flood plain issue
- ◆ Recent renovations to athletic facilities
- ◆ SSEC= 2 rooms



Memorial Middle School

- ◆ Capacity= 385 Current = 185
- ◆ Well maintained
- ◆ Building rated good
- ◆ Current repair est. = \$.8M
- ◆ Long-range repair = \$4M
- ◆ Located in 100 year flood plain
- ◆ SSEC= 2 rooms



Jacobs Elementary School

- ◆ Capacity= 785 Current = 415
- ◆ Well maintained - “Sense of Pride” in facility
- ◆ Overall condition rated Good
- ◆ Long-term repair est. = \$3M
- ◆ Renovation 2002
- ◆ SSEC= 7 rooms
- ◆ Other use = (4) Kid Care, Hull Family Network



Options for the Future



Option #1

💧 **Status Quo:**

- 💧 **Current configuration remains the same**
- 💧 **School Committee reviews enrollment on an annual basis and selects proposed option at that time if desired**

Option #2

- ◆ **Create a PreK-8 and 9-12 Model**
 - ◆ **Jacobs:**
 - ◆ **A. PreK-8**
 - ◆ **B. PreK-5 and 6-8**
 - ◆ **Memorial no longer utilized**
 - ◆ **Hull High: 9-12**
 - ◆ **Collaborative spaces reduced or eliminated**

Option #3

- 💧 **Create a PreK-7 and 8-12 Model**
 - 💧 **Jacobs:**
 - 💧 **PreK-7**
 - 💧 **PreK-4 and 5-7**
 - 💧 **Memorial no longer utilized**
 - 💧 **Hull High School: 8-12**
 - 💧 **Collaborative spaces reduced or eliminated**

Option #4

- 💧 **Mixed-Use Model**

- 💧 **Option 2 or 3 to be selected**
- 💧 **Memorial stays in use as a mixed-use facility to be determined by School Committee and Town of Hull**
- 💧 **Collaborative remains**
- 💧 **Develop Memorandum of Understanding to guide future of Memorial Building**

Transition Plan

- **Process could last up to 2 years with help from Advisory Committee**
- **Thoughtful, Transparent and Vetted**
- **Ultimate priority to maintain all educational programs and enhance if possible**
- **Develop Memorandum of Understand between Town and School Department to define an agreement if consolidation is selected**
- **Conducted feasibility study to determine impact of alterations of the accepting schools and the impact on programs**

Liaison Committee

- 💧 Town Manager – Phil Lemnios
- 💧 Superintendent – Judy Kuehn
- 💧 Select Board Member – John Reilly
- 💧 School Committee Member – Ernest Minelli

Role of Liaison Committee

- ◆ **Establish an Ad Hoc Committee**
- ◆ **Develop timeline and process for Ad Hoc Committee**

Role of Ad Hoc Committee I

Part I

- ◆ **Gather community input from stakeholders on the 4 options**
- ◆ **Methods**
 - ◆ **Community surveys**
 - ◆ **In-person Focus Groups (20 or fewer people in each session)**

Role of Ad Hoc Committee - II

Part II

- ◆ Vet each of the 4 options
- ◆ Advise the School Committee - include:
 - ◆ Staffing
 - ◆ Cost
 - ◆ Architecture
 - ◆ Transportation
 - ◆ Etc. [anticipated completion date – May 2022]

Role of Superintendent

- ◆ **Work with School Committee as it addresses the Ad Hoc Committee's input [anticipated completion date – May 2023]**
- ◆ **Implement recommendations of the School Committee by working with Municipal Officials**

Concluding Remarks

- ◆ **Project begun in Nov. 2019**
- ◆ **Thank you to entire administrative team and support staff**
- ◆ **Hull is not alone dealing with a very complex problem**
- ◆ **Selected Option must fit the goals of the District and the Town and will require cooperation**
- ◆ **Never lose sight of the children**



A Statement to Remember!

(Memorial School Lobby)



*"Children are the world's most
valuable resource and its
best hope for the future."*