

Wellesley School Committee  
P.A.W.S. Facilities Position Statement

Due to an increased need for its services, for the past few years P.A.W.S. (Preschool at Wellesley Schools) has required eight classroom spaces, including six in the existing P.A.W.S. building and two “satellite” classrooms where space has been available in the elementary school system. For the 2018-19 school year, both satellite classrooms are located at the Fiske School, which is adjacent to the P.A.W.S. building on the same campus. In recent years, satellite classrooms also have been run at Hunnewell and Upham.

A feasibility study for addressing space concerns and facilities deficits at P.A.W.S. was conducted from January to May 2018 and culminated with a report to School Committee in June.

Tappé Architects, which conducted the feasibility study, proposed three options to address the current P.A.W.S. space needs and provide future flexibility for the program:

- A three-story modular building on the current footprint of the P.A.W.S. building
- A two-story addition to the Fiske School
- A standalone, larger P.A.W.S. building in a different, undetermined location

The study also confirmed that because of site constraints, additional classrooms cannot be added to the current building.

The School Committee has considered the current P.A.W.S. enrollment and program needs, and has reached consensus that given the demands of the Hardy, Hunnewell, and Upham facilities project, and the urgency of the facilities needs of those schools, it will wait to further evaluate solutions for the P.A.W.S. space needs.

The Committee agreed that plans for the Hunnewell and Hardy/Upham projects may impact any final P.A.W.S. plan. Should an elementary school ultimately close, for example, the Committee may consider whether a new P.A.W.S. building would fit on the site of the closed school while still allowing enough space for a seventh K-5 school to be built in the future.

The Committee agrees that in the interim, having all P.A.W.S. classrooms located at the Fiske School site is the preferred arrangement, allowing for all teachers and students to remain on the same campus.

Voted by School Committee: