

# It's Time to Build Pride at Reading High School



It was 1954, Dwight Eisenhower was in the White House, and Reading Memorial High School opened its doors. Since then thousands of students and hundreds of teachers have proudly walked its halls, studied and taught in its classrooms, and excelled on its playing fields. Time has taken its toll on the building and it is in need of serious repair and renovation. It is now time to prepare RMHS for the future to meet Reading's educational needs and standards.

## The renovation needs to happen now.

### **The building is unsafe, unhealthy, and costly to maintain.**

- No sprinkler system in case of a fire.
- No communication and security systems. Staff and administration are unable to coordinate a response to emergencies.
- Ceiling tiles are old, worn, and in many places are damaged and have collapsed.
- Classroom temperatures fluctuate between 50 and 90 degrees.
- Makeshift and rusted windows, and roof sections need to be replaced.

### **The building is a second-rate educational facility and a dismal working environment for our teachers.**

- Science labs need to be updated to meet Mass. Ed. Reform standards and assure accreditation.
- Technology needs to be brought up to current standards to completely implement curricula and to prepare Reading students for the 21st century.
- Drama, art and music space is woefully inadequate.

### **READING HIGH SCHOOL IS IN VIOLATION OF BUILDING CODES.**

- Parts of the plumbing system rotted beyond use resulting in condemned bathrooms.
- Building is handicap inaccessible.
- Athletic facilities violate federal law – Title IX.



One of dozens of water damaged and collapsing ceiling tiles throughout the school.

# Let's finish what we began...

## Vote **YES** on Question #1

Last April, Reading voters overwhelmingly approved funds to develop a plan to renovate Reading Memorial High School. After nine months of public meetings, budget calculations and public input sessions, the School Building Committee and Town Meeting agreed on a creative plan that combines comprehensive renovation with new construction. This solution creates the least impact to the students while minimizing the construction time.

### Investment

The total project investment is \$54,305,000. With the anticipated state reimbursement, the expected impact for average assessed home (\$355K) is approximately \$33/month.

### Why we can't wait

Now is the time to act! Every year Reading spends hundreds of thousands of dollars on repairs to RMHS so that students can continue their education under the existing unsatisfactory conditions. It's past time to fix the problems with a comprehensive and responsible renovation. The Department of Education has proposed to reduce the state's reimbursement rate by 10% for all projects submitted after June 2003. By voting YES now, we maximize reimbursement for Reading.

Last April, 63% of Reading voters approved funds to design the renovation. Let's finish what we began.

Vote Yes on Question #1 on February 25th.

**THE DESIGN IS EXCITING,  
COMPREHENSIVE AND FISCALLY  
RESPONSIBLE.**

- New sprinkler, communication and security systems
  - Completely renovated plumbing, heating and electrical systems
  - Exciting place to learn. Updated science labs, state of the art technology, rebuilt athletic fields and new additional space for drama and music
  - Cost effective:  
over 50% reimbursement anticipated
- Reduced maintenance and heating costs with less square footage

