

# The Patriot Ledger

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## Chapman Middle School project on time and on budget

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WEYMOUTH — The Chapman Middle School project remains on time and on budget, with early demolition work scheduled to begin later this month.

The Weymouth School Building committee this week submitted the 60 percent construction documents from the middle school project to the state's School Building Authority for approval. The documents were prepared by HMFH Architects and reviewed by Hill International.

Ted Langill, Mayor Robert Hedlund's chief of staff and chair of the school building committee, said the group has been "full-steam head" to keep the project on time and on budget.

"Like many functions of our daily lives right now, this too has become more challenging in a world with COVID-19, but so far we've been able to keep the project on schedule and have done so safely," he said. "It is important to note that we have taken full precautions to protect personnel on site, which right now is only a few workers."

Langill said the project construction manager, Bond Brothers, has submitted a coronavirus response plan with strict policies and procedures that include a daily wellness check of everyone on site.

"The plan follows all guidelines and directives issued by the federal and state government and will be updated as circumstances change," he said.

Interior abatement work has begun in preparation for demolition to start later this month in the gym and unoccupied vocational wing of the Chapman School.

Foundation and steel work is scheduled to start in July. The completed construction documents are due in August and public bidding for construction is scheduled for the same month.



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Voters in a special election last year overwhelmingly approved a temporary tax increase to pay for the town's share of the cost of the new 252,170-square-foot middle school, which will house 1,470 students in sixth through eighth grades. The town plans to raise \$96.9 million through the debt-exclusion override.

The tax increase will cover the majority of the \$164.2 million cost of the project. The state School Building Authority is expected to contribute up to \$57.3 million for the project and Weymouth plans to raise about \$10 million through its current tax levy.

The old Chapman school building will be demolished with the exception of the existing gymnasium.

The site will be vacated during construction, with the eighth grade students moving into temporary spaces at Weymouth High School and the seventh grade students moving into the Adams Middle School for the fall of 2020. At the same time, the fifth grade, which is currently in the Adams Middle School, will move into permanent modular classrooms placed at multiple town elementary schools.

After town-wide primary school redistricting, the Adams School building will become Weymouth's ninth elementary school for kindergarten through fifth grade.

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