Planning for Our Students. Planning for Our Community.



Planning for Our Students. Planning for Our Community.



Planning for Our Students. Planning for Our Community.

WALTHAM
Where Kids Come First

WHY WE'RE HERE

Our students. Our school. Our future.

Waltham School District 185 is planning for today and tomorrow by focusing on what matters most.

ENROLLMENT GROWTH

Our community is growing—and so is our school.

- Steady increase in enrollment since 2019
- More students today and projected in the future
- Planning ahead ensures we can meet student needs



More students.
More potential.
More reasons to plan.

LEARNING SPACES

Students thrive in safe, modern, and appropriate learning environments.

- Need for additional classrooms and specialized spaces
- Support for academics, interventions, and enrichment
- Small class sizes remain a priority



The right spaces.
The right support.
The right future.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

We are committed to responsible use of taxpayer dollars.

- Temporary solutions come with ongoing high costs
- Owning our spaces is a smart long-term investment
- Planning now protects our financial future



Smart decisions today.
Stronger tomorrow.
Built to last.

COMMUNITY INPUT

Your voice matters. Together, we build a better Waltham.

- Listening to our parents, residents, and stakeholders
- Exploring options together
- Making informed decisions as a community



Your input.
Our conversations.
Our shared future.

By focusing on these priorities, we are ensuring that Waltham School District 185 continues to provide **exceptional education, strong opportunities, and a bright future** for every student.

STRONG SCHOOLS. | STRONG COMMUNITY. | STRONG FUTURE.

WALTHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT 185
Where Kids Come First

Our Story Timeline

OUR STORY

Responsible planning has always been part of Waltham's story.



2003
DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION

Our community came together to strengthen education for all students.

2019
NEW SCHOOL OPENS

A new chapter began with a state-of-the-art learning environment.

BUILT WITHOUT RAISING TAXES

The community's investment was maximized without increasing the tax rate.

ENROLLMENT GROWTH

More families are choosing Waltham, and our school continues to grow.

TEMPORARY CLASSROOMS ADDED

Temporary solutions helped us meet immediate needs and support students.

PLANNING FOR TOMORROW

Thoughtful planning today ensures opportunities for tomorrow.

Our commitment to students and our community has never changed.

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WHAT HAS CHANGED SINCE 2019?

GROWTH. OPPORTUNITY. COMMITMENT.

Our district has evolved—and so have the needs of our students.
Here's what has changed since our school was built in 2019.

OUR COMMUNITY

- **More young families** moving into existing homes
- **Exceptional district** reputation
- **Strong academic** performance
- **Expanded student** programming



OUR SCHOOL

- **Enrollment exceeds** original building capacity
- **More specialized** learning spaces needed
- **Increased special education** programming
- **Continued commitment** to small class sizes

THE BOTTOM LINE:

Our community is growing, our students have more needs, and our commitment to high-quality education continues to drive our decisions.

SAME MISSION. STRONGER FUTURE.
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LISTENING TO OUR COMMUNITY. | PLANNING FOR TOMORROW. | BUILDING FOR OUR STUDENTS.

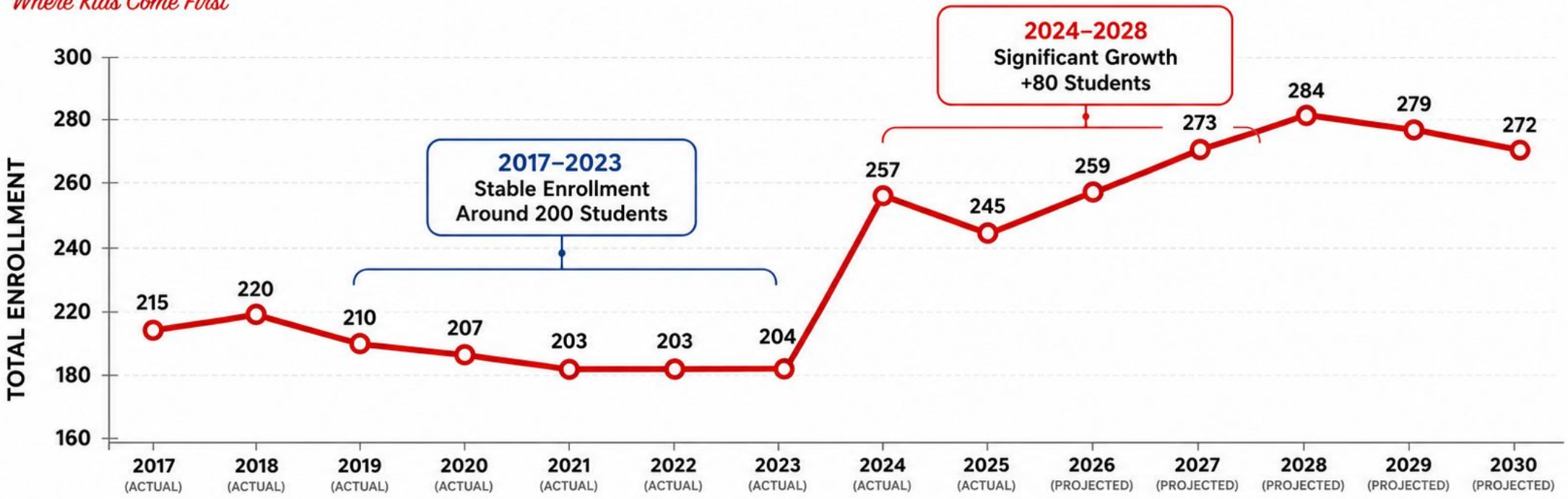
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Enrollment Growth

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ENROLLMENT GROWTH OVER TIME

GROWTH DRIVEN BY FAMILIES CHOOSING WALTHAM



Steady growth reflects Waltham's strong reputation, dedicated staff, and families choosing our school.

+69 STUDENTS SINCE 2017

+34% GROWTH SINCE 2017

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WHY HAS ENROLLMENT INCREASED?

More families are choosing Waltham School District 185.
Here are some of the reasons why our enrollment continues to grow.

EXISTING HOMES TURNING OVER TO YOUNG FAMILIES

Our community is growing as more young families move into existing homes, bringing new energy and new students.



STRONG DISTRICT REPUTATION

Waltham is known for caring staff, small class sizes, and a welcoming environment where students can thrive.



ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Our commitment to high-quality instruction, support, and student growth leads to strong academic results year after year.



FAMILIES CHOOSING WALTHAM

Families choose Waltham because they want the best opportunities for their children—now and in the future.



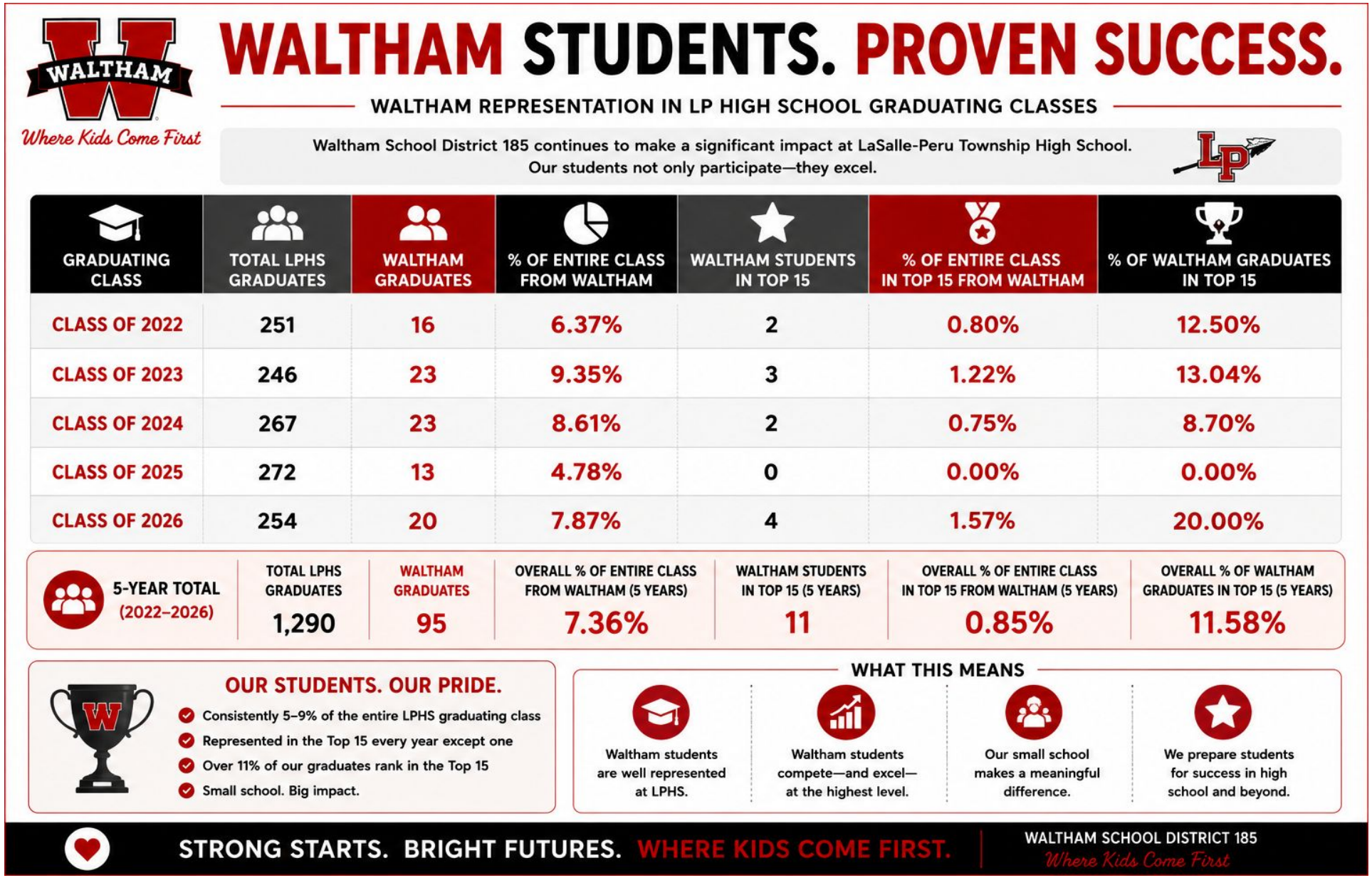
A GROWING COMMUNITY.
A STRONG SCHOOL.
A Bright Future.



TOGETHER, WE'RE BUILDING A FUTURE WHERE
Every Student Can Succeed.

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TODAY'S TWO CHALLENGES

Two critical priorities. One common goal: Our students.

LEARNING SPACES



- Classrooms
- Special Education
- Student Services
- Future Growth

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP



- Temporary Classrooms
- Lease Costs
- Utilities
- Maintenance
- Construction Inflation

Addressing both challenges today ensures a stronger, more sustainable future for Waltham students and our community.

DIFFERENT CHALLENGES.
ONE COMMITMENT.

PLANNING WISELY. | INVESTING RESPONSIBLY. | PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST.

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LEARNING SPACES

Creating the Right Spaces for Every Student, Every Day



- Permanent classrooms at capacity
- 10 classrooms in temporary buildings
- Limited special education and intervention space
- Reduced flexibility for future programming
- Small class sizes remain a district priority

OUR STUDENTS DESERVE SPACES THAT SUPPORT *Learning Today and Tomorrow.*

STRONG SPACES.
STRONGER FUTURES.

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Previous Proposal & We Listened

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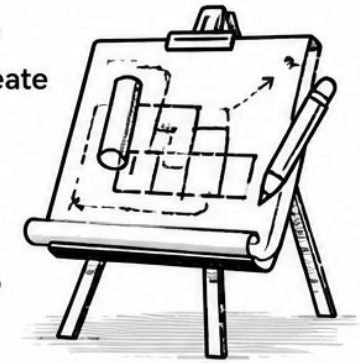
OUR ORIGINAL PLAN FAILED AT REFERENDUM



Our original plan was presented to the community and did not pass.

WE LISTENED. WE RESPONDED.

We went back to the drawing board to create better solutions for our students and our community.



DIFFERENT CHOICES. ONE GOAL. A STRONGER FUTURE FOR WALTHAM.

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WHAT DID WE LEARN?

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Concerns about taxes
Protect taxpayers and keep taxes low.

Project felt too large
Explore a smaller, right-sized solution.

Value for taxpayer dollars
Ensure long-term value and responsible spending.

Need more information
Provide clear, transparent information and answers.

Explore all options
Consider a range of solutions before making a decision.

BOARD RESPONSE

Carefully reviewed
We examined financial impacts and tax options.

Went back to the drawing board
We re-evaluated project scope and right-sized the solutions.

Focused on long-term value
We prioritized lasting solutions that benefit students and protect taxpayers.

Committed to transparency
We continue sharing information, answering questions, and listening.

Explored additional alternatives
We developed multiple options to meet our community's needs.

NEW ALTERNATIVES

ALTERNATIVE A
CONTINUE LEASING TEMPORARY CLASSROOMS

Maintain current setup with 10 modular classrooms.

ALTERNATIVE B
BUILD PERMANENT CLASSROOMS

Add 10 permanent classrooms to create better spaces and long-term value.

WE LISTENED. WE RESPONDED. WE'RE PLANNING FOR WALTHAM'S FUTURE.

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Campus Comparison

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CAMPUS DIAGRAMS

EXPLORING OUR OPTIONS FOR WALTHAM'S FUTURE

CURRENT CAMPUS



Our school today with
10 classrooms in
temporary modular buildings.

256 STUDENTS

11 PERMANENT CLASSROOMS

10 TEMPORARY CLASSROOMS

GREAT SPACES.
GREAT POTENTIAL.

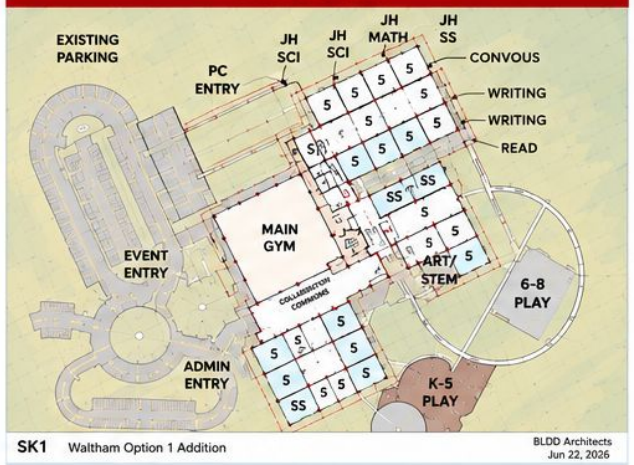
ALTERNATIVE A
CONTINUE LEASING TEMPORARY CLASSROOMS



Maintain current setup.
10 modular classrooms remain.

- CONTINUES LEASE PAYMENTS
- ONGOING UTILITY, MAINTENANCE & INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS
- TEMPORARY SOLUTION WITH LONG-TERM COSTS

ALTERNATIVE B
BUILD PERMANENT CLASSROOMS



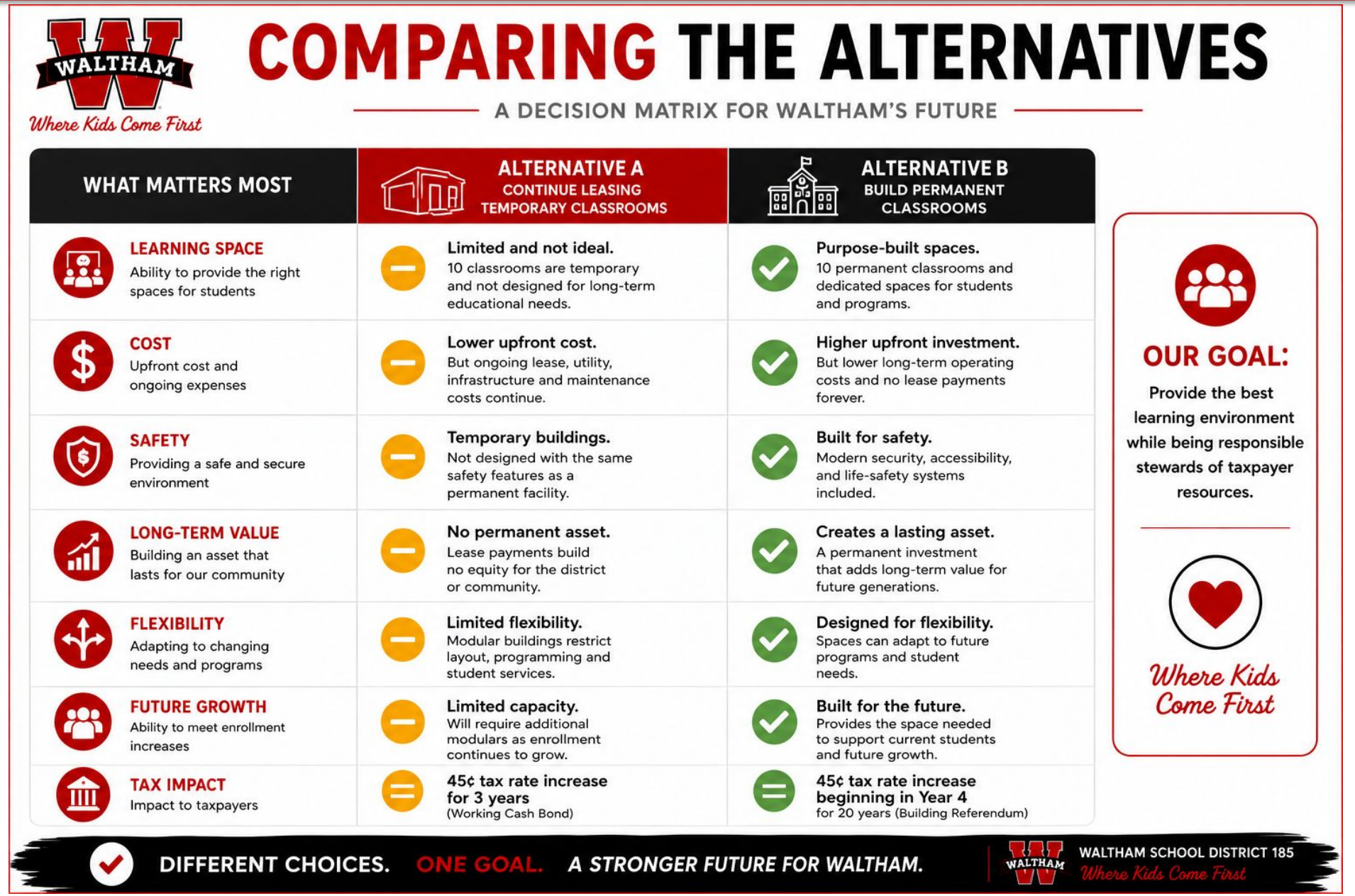
Add 10 permanent classrooms
to replace all modular buildings.
Better spaces. Long-term value.

- ALL 10 MODULAR CLASSROOMS REPLACED WITH PERMANENT CLASSROOMS
- IMPROVED LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS
- LONG-TERM INVESTMENT FOR OUR STUDENTS

DIFFERENT CHOICES. ONE GOAL. A STRONGER FUTURE FOR WALTHAM.

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Tax Comparison

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TAX COMPARISON

Understanding the Impact on Our Community

WORKING CASH BOND



45¢
TAX RATE INCREASE

FOR YEARS 1–3

PAYS FOR
TEMPORARY CLASSROOMS

- SHORT-TERM SOLUTION
- ANNUAL LEASE PAYMENTS
- ONGOING MAINTENANCE & OPERATING COSTS

BUILDING REFERENDUM



45¢
TAX RATE INCREASE

BEGINNING YEAR 4
FOR 20 YEARS

PAYS FOR
PERMANENT CLASSROOMS & FACILITIES

- LONG-TERM INVESTMENT
- SAFER, MODERN LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS
- BUILDS VALUE FOR OUR STUDENTS & COMMUNITY

TRANSITION TO YEAR 4

YEARS → 1 → 2 → 3 → 4 → 5 → ••• → 23 → 24

WORKING CASH BOND
45¢ TAX RATE INCREASE
PAYS FOR TEMPORARY CLASSROOMS

BUILDING REFERENDUM
45¢ TAX RATE INCREASE
FOR 20 YEARS • PAYS FOR PERMANENT FACILITIES

SIMILAR TAX IMPACT. *Different Investment.*



TODAY'S INVESTMENT
Working Cash Bonds pay for temporary classrooms with ongoing costs and no long-term asset.



TOMORROW'S INVESTMENT
A Building Referendum creates permanent spaces that support students, strengthen our school, and build community value.

DIFFERENT APPROACH. SAME TAX IMPACT. VERY DIFFERENT OUTCOME.

WALTHAM PLANNING TODAY *Where Kids Come First*

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS WE HEAR MOST

1 WILL THIS RAISE MY TAXES?

Yes.
Both alternatives have the same estimated tax impact: 45¢ per $100 of EAV.
The difference is how the investment is used.

2 WHY CAN'T WE JUST KEEP THE TRAILERS?

Trailers were designed as a temporary solution.
Lease payments, utilities, infrastructure, and maintenance continue to rise.
They are not the best long-term solution for our students or taxpayers.

3 WHY DID THE PREVIOUS PROPOSAL NOT PASS?

We listened.
The community shared concerns about cost, size, and priorities.
The Board went back to the drawing board and developed two alternatives to explore with our community.

4 WHY BUILD NOW INSTEAD OF WAITING?

Construction costs increase over time.
Delaying a permanent solution typically means higher future costs and continuing to pay for temporary classrooms year after year.

5 HOW WERE THESE ALTERNATIVES DECIDED?

Through careful study and community input.
The Board reviewed enrollment data, facility needs, financial projections, and community feedback to create these responsible options.

OUR COMMITMENT

- We are committed to transparency.
- We will continue to listen.
- We will make decisions that are best for our students.
- We will be responsible stewards of your tax dollars.

DIFFERENT CHOICES. ONE GOAL. A STRONGER FUTURE FOR WALTHAM.

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