

Town of Weymouth



School Building Committee Maria Weston Chapman Middle School

MINUTES

October 12, 2016 – 6:30 p.m.

Weymouth High School, MJL Humanities Center
1 Wildcat Way

Members Present: Lisa Belmarsh, Paul Comerford, Brian Connolly, Kathy Curran, Jennifer Curtis-Whipple, Paul Duprey, Tom Eldridge, Sean Guilfoyle, Stephanie Hilbert Dwyer, Mayor Hedlund, Lisa Jennings, Ted Langill, John MacLeod, Michael Smart

Absent: Matthew Meehan

The meeting was called to order by Chair Langill at 6:32 p.m.

Chair Langill thanked the committee for their flexibility for the change of the meeting date/time and location. He also noted that Mayor Hedlund may need to leave the meeting early due to a previous engagement.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Mr. Guilfoyle, seconded by Mr. Smart to approve the minutes from September 22, 2016 as amended at the meeting. So voted, 6:35 p.m.

Review of October 3rd meeting with MSBA

Ms. Belmarsh reviewed the October 3rd meeting that she, Chair Langill, Dr. Curtis-Whipple and Mr. Duprey attended in Boston. At the meeting they reviewed the enrollment projections that were handed out in the last meeting and are posted on the website. Ms. Belmarsh reviewed how the MSBA came up with these projections in detail. The next item that was discussed was the kindergarten proposal. Ms. Belmarsh stated that MSBA did not want this as part of the feasibility study going forward and discussed this in detail.

Ms. Belmarsh then reviewed the next item, the site of the project. MSBA stated that if Weymouth decided to go with one middle school it would be the largest middle school in the state. The benefits, pros and cons were discussed. Finally there was a very brief conversation around non reimbursable

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expenses. Items like an auditorium are not a reimbursable, unless we can show why and make a case. Ms. Belmarsh reviewed this in detail.

Discussion of MSBA Considerations

Dr. Curtis-Whipple then reviewed full day kindergarten and the options. It is something that can be taken off line and discussed at another time. Mrs. Curran asked a clarifying question around full day K and where it would be housed. Dr. Curtis-Whipple discussed.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple reviewed the proposed configurations for Feasibility Study and how it ties in with the possible enrollment for Chapman and Adams. Dr. Curtis-Whipple reviewed the floor plans for Abigail Adams and Chapman. She reviewed the different way the buildings would split, what the site would be used for. Dr. Curtis-Whipple discussed in detail what the asks were from MSBA. Dr. Curtis-Whipple then took questions from the Committee. Mrs. Curran asked clarifying questions around numbers and grades in each building. Ms. Belmarsh also clarified what the “have to’s” were from MSBA and what needs to be studied. Chair Langill then discussed next steps would then be choosing design the enrollment number and how it will be split up. MSBA is expecting three different configurations from the Committee using Adams as a second site, grades 6-8, 7-8 and 5-8.

Mayor Hedlund asked the Superintendent to explain the issue with 5th grade going back to the primary level. Dr. Curtis-Whipple explained that all of the primary buildings are at capacity and there is no room for 5th grade to move down. Having a universal K would have opened up classrooms.

Mr. Guilfoyle asked if there is still conversation around full-day K. Dr. Curtis-Whipple responded there is no mandate from the legislature.

Dr. Curtis-Whipple then discussed the site of the project. We had a brief conversation at MSBA about that. We need to do due diligence around the existing site. Chair Langill also discussed the different options and answered questions from the Committee.

Next steps in Schedule for Feasibility Approval

Chair Langill then reviewed the status of where we are during the eligibility period. Awaiting MSBA action – certify design enrollment for the proposed project. Provided the Capital Improvement Plan. We have submitted a measure to the Town Council for \$1,000,000 that will take place on Monday, October 17th with a public hearing. We have the possibility of closing with MSBA at their November 9th agenda for approval for the next phase. After that, their next meeting is in February 2017.

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Community Input

Dr. Curtis-Whipple reviewed a survey monkey that Dr. Pam Stazesky put together for us that we can send out to the Community. Dr. Curtis-Whipple asked for comments about the survey and changes. Mrs. Curran suggested that we have some community meetings/forums. Chair Langill agreed that initial meetings with the Community would be a good idea. Chair Langill also asked the community to send questions to himself and Dr. Curtis-Whipple so that they could be gathered and addressed at the next meeting. Ms. Jennings suggested a baseline of how much the community actually knows about the project and follow-up with more detailed surveys.

Chair Langill stated that he would look at dates for Community Forums and possible open house at Chapman for the Community. Ms. Jennings asked if there were going to be tours of Adams. Mr. Comerford asked if there could possibly an educational video be done to educate the community about the school, infrastructure and the project.

On motion of Mr. Guilfoyle, seconded by Mrs. Smart, it was voted to adjourn. So voted, 7:25 p.m.