

## **MEDFIELD SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE**

**Regular Meeting  
May 16, 2023 - 7:00 pm**

**Public Safety Building Training Room, 112 North Street, also available via Zoom**

PRESENT: Mike Weber, Co-Chair  
Meredith Chamberland, Co-Chair  
Robert Donahoe  
William Werner  
Carolyn Casey  
Kristen Simonini  
Robert Meaney  
Teresa James  
Michelle Kirkby  
Mather Eldred  
Robert Worth  
Kristine Trierweiler, Town Administrator, ex-officio, non-voting member  
Dr. Jeffrey Marsden, ex-officio, non-voting member  
Stephen Grenham, ex-officio, non-voting member

### **1. Vote on approval of meeting minutes from April 27, 2023 Meeting**

- Committee members discussed edits.
  - Ms. Casey had edit suggestions for the minutes regarding her statement about a bylaw,

#### **MOTION:**

- Kristen Simonini made the motion to approve the meeting minutes as amended by Ms. Casey. Mr. Eldred seconded the motion.

### **2. Discussion of Warrant article passing for additional \$250k for SBC**

- Mr. Donahoe commented on Town Meeting and a question regarding why the SBC cannot use some of the existing studies over. He stated that some studies can be reused to some extent; they need to be revised or updated like an addendum.
- Mr. Donahoe asked if there has been a detailed wetlands delineation performed or if this was based on the GIS mapping system.
  - Mr. Weber believes that there was an extensive wetlands study. Both locations, Dale and Wheelock, sat in a similar wetlands area.
- Mr. Weber expressed his thanks towards the Town for voting and placing their trust in the SBC by giving them funds.

- Mr. Werner reviewed the old documentation and stated that it is hard to follow the trail of information. He asked if the former members would be willing to present documentation of what was previously done as it could be helpful for the current committee.
- Ms. Casey agreed that this would be helpful in answering their questions regarding the project. She suggested making a list of big questions they have and prioritize the list to discuss in future meetings.
- Mr. Weber proposed creating and talking through a timeline. He stated that December is the start of their timeline, or whenever they hear from the MSBA.
- Ms. Simonini stated that it is not clear to her whether or not the rehabilitation of Dale is an option, or if it has been removed for particular reasons. She would like to know factually if this is an option that could be pursued.
- Mr. Donahoe asked about the site selection process. Mr. Weber stated that the last time they did this, the site selection process was done by the OPM group and the architect. He added that this could change; the sites were presented to the committee. He believed that everything is on the table, including rehabilitation.
- Mr. Werner asked if it was explored to knock Dale Street down to rebuild on that lot. Mr. Weber responded that this was briefly considered, but believes the front steps and the pillars are historical. He added that there is some money to fix the pillars. Mr. Weber stated that anything is possible, including reusing some of the building.
- Mr. Worth asked if the cost associated with tearing down the building and getting rid of asbestos was built into the cost of the project. Mr. Weber stated that the rehabilitation option was smaller and did not fit certain criteria for classroom sizes. He added that this was a less expensive option that was presented to the Town.
- Mr. Weber stated that someone at Town Meeting made a great point regarding public hearings and how they are important to have. He believes that as this committee moves forward, it is important to be cognizant of doing their best and spreading the word around town.
- Ms. Simonini believed that the first step would be to assess whether Dale can be rehabilitated and then put this in front of the community prior to moving to the next step.
- Ms. Casey expressed how this committee is new and is looking to move forward past the previous committee and what went wrong with community support.
- Mr. Donahoe stated that it is not always doable to go net zero. He is unsure if anyone has looked at the net zero situation at the existing Dale. Mr. Weber believed that they did not.

- Mr. Weber added that the chair of the Medfield Energy Committee would like to present to the SBC.
- Mr. Eldred added that despite the naysayers of where the new school location will be, citizens still have it in mind that the Town needs a new school.

### 3. Communication sub-committee updates

- **Review of survey and how to distribute**
  - Ms. Casey shared that the communication sub-committee met to create and review a survey. They discussed how to share the survey with the public.
  - The Board discussed having the PTOs share the survey; however, Ms. Casey made a point that the survey should be made available to non-school related citizens as well.
  - The Google Forms survey was presented on the screen during the recorded meeting. Dr. Chamberland reviewed the structure of the survey, which included an introduction.
  - One of the questions on the survey shared was: “The May 2022 town meeting voted down the proposed new elementary school building adjacent to Wheelock. Which statement best describes your position on the prior vote?”
  - Additionally, they asked citizens to rank their considerations for the future plans for Dale Street. This list was condensed and the considerations included educational programs, location, construction disruption to student’s education, community benefits, environmental/sustainability impacts, historic preservation, cost, facility size, state funding (MSBA), school building committee process, and enrollment projections.
  - Included in the survey was a question that asked the community to state their top two priorities to be included in a new school design.
  - The survey asked for people to describe their relationship with the Medfield Public Schools.
  - The committee discussed advertising the survey and making edits to the questions. They planned to edit the survey by their next meeting and send the link out May 24th with a closing date of June 15th.
  - Mr. Eldred suggested holding a creativity contest at the schools, where a student would create the logo for the SBC. Their goal is to release the contest before Medfield Day.
  - In the meantime, they discussed a temporary logo and what the project will be titled. Mr. Donahoe suggested titling it “New Dale Elementary School.” Ms. Simonini suggested collecting donors to name the project.

- They discussed potentially hiring a PR team to assist in advertising the committee and survey. They questioned if this would be money well spent. Ms. Casey would like to hire a PR team as soon as possible and place them on a retainer. They could assist with a newsletter and attend meetings. Mr. Donahoe suggested getting quotes from a few firms.
- Mr. Weber thanked the communications sub-committee for taking charge.

#### **4. Dates to visit Mr. Worth's school**

- Mr. Worth invited the SBC to visit his school in Foxborough. He mentioned asking his facilities manager to share his thoughts and experiences at future meetings.
- Mr. Worth stated that they can visit his building in the evening, when school is not in session, before the summer begins. Mr. Weber stated that this would be a great opportunity.
- The committee agreed on visiting this school on May 30, 2023 at 6:00pm.

#### **Public Comment**

- There was no citizen input via zoom.
- Chris McCue Potts recommended selecting one project name and keeping it consistent from the beginning of the project to the very end, no matter where they use it, to eliminate confusion. She added that last time, this got very confusing. As a PR person with over 30 years of experience, she suggested that the PR firm should either be strategic or tactical. Regarding the survey, she suggested they separate Patch and Hometown Weekly as they are two different entities. She commended that they incorporated ranking of the considerations. However, she stated that the construction disruption to student's education is a biased consideration. She suggested altering this to "construction impact to student's education." Ms. Casey suggested "construction impact," as this will affect more than just students. Additionally, Ms. Potts suggested removing the words "Town Meeting" because there were two votes taken, one at Town Meeting and one at the election. Ms. Casey recommended changing this to: "The Town voted down the proposed elementary school building."

#### **Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Mr. Werner made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Eldred seconded the motion.

Roll Call vote:

- Mike Weber - yes
- Meredith Chamberland - yes
- Robert Donahoe - yes
- William Werner - yes
- Carolyn Casey - yes

- Kristen Simonini - yes
- Robert Meaney - yes
- Teresa James - yes
- Michelle Kirkby - yes
- Mather Eldred - yes
- Robert Worth - yes

Respectfully Submitted,  
Paulina Colivas