

# **MEDFIELD SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE**

**Regular Meeting  
June 7, 2023 - 7:45 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  
Michelle Kirkby  
Mather Eldred  
Robert Worth  
Tony Papantonis  
Teresa James  
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 May 16, 2023 Meeting**

- The meeting minutes were not available at this time. They will vote on the approval at the next meeting.

## **2. Communications Subcommittee Updates**

- Ms. Casey stated that the subcommittee met last night. They had over 800 respondents to the survey. They decided to leave the survey open until June 16th. The subcommittee will meet again on June 20th to discuss the results.
- The survey was open to all Medfield residents. The survey included two demographic questions, which included “How did you vote in the prior vote (the town meeting vote)?” and “What is your current relationship with regard to your children and the Medfield Public Schools?”
- Ms. Casey shared survey results thus far.
- 29.1% of respondents said it was a great plan and voted yes. 23.9% of respondents said it was a bad plan and voted no.
- The most important considerations were location, cost, MSBA funding, and educational programs.

- People with children in the school system tended to vote yes for the project. People who do not have children tended to vote no. 60% of respondents who voted yes for the project have children in school and 47% of the respondents who voted no do have children in school.
- Regarding what mattered the most to respondents, educational programming was by far the most important criteria to yes voters. For no voters, the location and cost was the most important criteria.
- Ms. Casey made a point that over 3,500 people voted at the special town meeting.
- Mr. Werner commented that it is important for the SBC to explain the MSBA process to town citizens, including what this entails relating to cost.
- When looking at respondents who will have children at Dale during the next four years, 77% of them voted yes. Looking at respondents who will not have students at Dale during the next four years, 50% of them voted yes. Lastly, 24% of the respondents who do not have children at MPS voted yes.
- Mr. Werner added that it is important to educate all citizens in the town, regardless of if they have children in the school system or not.
- It was also mentioned how important it would be to know where the responders live because this would give the SBC an idea as to whether their location would impact their opinion on the project.
- The SBC stressed the importance of sharing the survey with friends to spread the word.
- Ms. Casey suggested that the results that were shared via Google file be attached to the meeting minutes.
- Ms. James suggested that a narrative, video version of the results be prepared.
- After the survey closes, all results will be shared to their website, Hometown Weekly, Patch, etc.
- Ms. Kirkby suggested that the entire committee come together to understand the data in order to move forward. They would also email the results to those who took the survey.
- The subcommittee will meet again on June 20th at 7:00 p.m. at the Medfield High School library to discuss the survey data before it is released to the public.
- The survey will close on June 16th. Ms. Casey wants to release the comments from the survey to the SBC prior to June 20th.

### **3. Open comments from group on Site Tour of Mr. Worth's recently renovated school**

- The SBC discussed their site visit last Monday. Ms. Simonini realized while visiting the school that accessibility features are important. This includes having everything on one level to meet students' needs. She wants to create a school blueprint that supports this. She liked the use of the space, which includes non-traditional lockers for students to access their belongings. She appreciated the

outdoor space and how there was room to grow with the surrounding fields. She pointed out how this is different from the current Dale property. She commented that technology systems were impressive. She questioned the possibility of moving forward at Dale with an older property. She commended the security aspects as they were well thought out.

- Ms. Casey emphasized the outdoor space surrounding the school. She liked that the library was in the lobby, creating a welcoming space. She mentioned that they had a generator, which is for emergency uses such as power outages.
- Ms. Simonini added that the school had community space, which would benefit those wanting to use space and not disrupt the school. Mr. Worth stated that there was a lot of thought put into this; the school is a functional space to be used beyond school hours.
- Mr. Meaney liked the toggle locks on the classroom doors because they are keyless. He emphasized that the bus lanes were separate. He liked the open spaces in front of several classrooms for specialists to work with students, while keeping them close to their class. He liked the cafeteria design and the shatter-resistant glass.
- Ms. Kirkby was impressed with the natural lighting in every space despite it being a dreary day.

#### **4. Brief update of past site selection process**

- Mr. Weber informed the SBC on the previous site selection process. Last time, site selection happened almost immediately after the architect was hired in late 2019. The two main issues were site selection and grade configuration.
- In January 2020, the architect selected six hypothetical sites around town that would accommodate a school. This includes Dale, Wheelock, Hospital Hill, McCarthy Park, Red Gate Farm, and the other hospital campus. The only two viable pieces of property are Dale and Wheelock. In 2020, the SBC voted for the site. At the time, they sent out a survey and the majority preferred Dale, but this was not the decision-maker for the committee.
- In August 2020, they were given visions of what the schools would look at at either site. The Preferred Schematic Report (PSR) was due to the MSBA in September 2020, but this was pushed back twice due to COVID.
- Mr. Donahoe asked if the Dale site is large enough to accommodate a school's needs while only having one floor. Mr. Weber stated that they concluded that it cannot be one floor. Both sites were not proposed to be one floor; they were proposed as two floors. With the original pillars of Dale, they just planned on building on the fields between Dale and Memorial. Therefore, this would be a very congested site with very little field space.

### **Future Meeting Dates**

- The subcommittee will meet on June 20th at 7:00 p.m. at the Medfield High School library to discuss the survey data before it is released to the public.
- The SBC will meet again on June 26th at 7:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building Training Room.
- The SBC will meet virtually on July 11th at 5:00 p.m.
- Planning agenda items for future meetings was discussed. Dr. Marsden and Mr. Grenham will address the Board in the future to explain educational aspects of the project. Also, they mentioned meeting with the Medfield Energy Committee. They plan to get a booth at Medfield Day to explain the project to townspeople.

### **Public Comment**

- Chris McCue Potts asked if the Dale site is too small. She added that the configurations were great, but because they asked for two different types of grade configurations, i.e.: grades 4, 5 and grades 3, 4, and 5, the architects had to ensure that the plans that were presented were doable for both configurations. She argued that they have a grade configuration set first before deciding on the site. Mr. Weber stated that the grade selection was a School Committee decision; the preference was three grades, but they decided on two grades because of cost.

### **Adjournment**

- Mr. Werner made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Papantonis 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
- Michelle Kirkby - yes
- Mather Eldred - yes
- Robert Worth - yes
- Tony Papantonis - yes
- Teresa James - yes

Respectfully Submitted,  
Paulina Colivas