

**School Facilities Committee Meeting  
June 23, 2015  
Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was opened at approximately 7:35 a.m. by chair Matt Kelley. In attendance: Hans Larsen, David Lussier, Joe McDonough, Matt Kelley, Judy Belliveau, Alex Pitkin, Jack Morgan, Tom Goemaat, Tony Iacovino, Sharon Gray.

**Approval of 3/26/15 Meeting Minutes**

Jack Morgan made a motion to approve the minutes. Hans Larsen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Citizen Speak**

No citizens requested to speak.

**Update on Meeting with MSBA and Rep. Peisch**

Matt Kelley reported that he and David Lussier met with the executive director of the MSBA and Rep. Alice Peisch, Wellesley's state representative and Chair of the Joint Committee on Education.

The purpose of the meeting was to determine the Wellesley Public Schools' chances of receiving state funding for the construction or renovation/expansion of an elementary school. In April, the Town filed Statements of Interest with the MSBA on behalf of Hardy, Hunnewell and Upham for the third consecutive year.

Mr. Kelley and Dr. Lussier said they were assured that if the Town were to start the construction or renovation process with a feasibility study, doing so would not prejudice any future opportunities for MSBA funding. By early fall, the Town should know whether it has been selected for the next step, which is a site visit by the MSBA.

After discussion about the meeting and other members' knowledge of the MSBA process, the group agreed that the Town should not plan to receive funding for HHU construction or renovation projects in the near future.

**Update on FPWG**

Tom Goemaat, co-chair of the Facilities Project Working Group, provided an update on the group's progress. Currently the FPWG is working toward a consensus of what procedures should change as projects move from concept to construction.

Dr. Lussier said some clarity of process would be helpful as the HHU project gets under way. Mr. Goemaat noted that in some other towns, unlike in Wellesley, the Permanent Building Committee plays a role during the feasibility process. Hans

Larsen said the group might consider inviting a member of PBC to join the School Facilities Committee in the near future.

## **HHU**

Alex Pitkin and Tony Iacovino of SMMA (Symmes, Maini & McKee Associates) presented their cost scenarios for basic renovations of Hardy, Hunnewell and Upham. The SMMA presentation also included a review of enrollment figures (current and projected) and a look at the 8 potential scenarios involving new construction and/or renovation.

One of the newer scenarios presented by SMMA, the option of renovating all three schools over two summers, was discarded as the buildings have more complex issues than what was seen with Fiske & Schofield.

After discussions, the committee came to a consensus that many of the eight scenarios were not feasible, given site constraints, the need for “swing” space to house students during construction, traffic and the Town’s natural boundaries.

Dr. Lussier and Judy Belliveau of WPS and Joe McDonough of the Facilities Maintenance Department reported that operational savings related to closing a school would total approximately 550K annually (500K WPS, 50K FMD).

Mr. Larsen said the yearly savings with the consolidation option likely would largely offset the higher project cost. The group discussed that consolidation (new school plus expanded and renovated school) would result in 50-year buildings. The option of less-involved renovations of all three schools would last closer to 25-30 years.

Mr. McDonough suggested evaluating the scenarios based on the following criteria:

- Educational benefits (programming, enrollment, circulation/efficiency, space flexibility)
- Cost/Value (project costs, operational costs, costs per SF)
- Service Life (renovation vs. new)
- Other (traffic, parking)

The committee agreed that a working group would address these evaluations, as well as discuss a plan for community outreach, before the SFC reconvenes again later in the summer.

## **Citizen Speak**

Catherine Johnson, a member of the planning board, spoke to the group about the board’s upcoming 10-year comprehensive plan process and the importance of collaboration with Schools and other Town groups throughout the process.

### **Adjournment**

At approximately 9:35 a.m., Sharon Gray made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Matt Kelley seconded. The motion passed unanimously.