

School Facilities Committee Meeting
October 13, 2015
Conference Room G - Town Hall

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:03 AM. In attendance: Chair Matt Kelley, Executive Director Hans Larsen, Facilities Maintenance Director Joe McDonough, Jack Morgan of the Board of Selectmen and Sharon Gray of School Committee.

Citizen Speak

No citizens requested to speak.

Hardy, Hunnewell and Upham (HHU) Community Forum Preparation

Four community meetings on the SFC's HHU recommendations have taken place with one remaining, a town-wide meeting scheduled for October 14 in the Kingsbury Room at the Wellesley Police Department.

Mr. Kelley brought it to the committee's attention that the wake for 16-year-old Casey Dunne was scheduled next door at the same time. The committee discussed the difficulty of holding the meeting as planned. After discussion and a look at available dates and rooms, the meeting was moved to Wednesday, October 21 in the Great Hall at Town Hall.

The group discussed the option of building three new or nearly new schools, an option that had not previously been formally priced out by the SFC. The total cost for that option has been requested by many members of the Hardy community. Mr. Kelley said SMMA, the architect, has been given a new work order to price out a three-school option and the information should be forthcoming soon.

Assistant Superintendent Judy Belliveau arrived at 8:15 AM.

Mr. Morgan said the town operated for 16 years with six schools. He said the transition from 12 schools to six schools by the 1980s was challenging, but from a town-wide perspective, a shift from seven to six is much less dramatic.

While the SFC's current recommendation has a schedule that includes a request for both feasibility and schematic design funds at Annual Town Meeting in the spring, Mr. Larsen said it may make more sense to request only funds for feasibility, and save the request for schematic design to a later date.

Mr. McDonough said feasibility could take about a year, while schematic design should be a much quicker process. The committee briefly discussed whether it might make sense to bring two options to ATM for a vote. During the high school project, for

example, both a new building and a renovated 1938 building were studied during the feasibility process.

Mr. McDonough said the RFP process for hiring an architect for feasibility will take at least three months. Any new architect would then need time to get up to speed, pushing the start of the process likely to June.

The group discussed the creation of a School Building Committee. The Board of Selectmen and School Committee will ultimately vote a plan for HHU, and a newly formed SBC would ask for funds from Town Meeting and manage the feasibility process. Mr. McDonough said to keep on schedule, the SBC should be created before the end of the year.

The committee members agreed that once the cost and project scheduling for a three-school option have been developed, that information will be shared and discussed with the community. Regardless of the plan that is moved forward by the School Committee and Board of Selectmen, it appears at least part of the process will take longer than the proposed schedule in the SFC's current recommendation.

Next Steps: Community Forum scheduled for October 21 at 7 p.m. in the Great Hall. Most SFC members are expected to attend.

Adjournment

At approximately 9:30 AM, upon a motion made by Mr. Kelley and seconded by Ms. Gray, the committee VOTED to adjourn.