

Report of School Building Committee for Wellesley Middle School
SECOND UPDATE – April 26, 2010
2010 Annual Town Meeting

An Updated Report of the School Building Committee for Wellesley Middle School dated April 11, 2010 was provided to all Town Meeting Members. The Update stated that the School Building Committee (“SBC”) had concluded that the design and permitting process for modular construction should begin immediately in order to address the increased enrollment at the Wellesley Middle School (“WMS”) by September 2011. It was recommended that modular classrooms be placed on the parking lot behind the middle school on Donizetti Street.

Current Situation

Since the SBC recommendation was announced, significant neighborhood concerns have been raised regarding the location of the modulars, which indicated a protracted permitting process, possibly extending beyond the time frame of the enrollment increase. As a result, the School Committee (“SC”) and the SBC convened a joint meeting on April 16, 2010 to discuss how the SBC should proceed. All members agreed that other options for accommodating the increase in enrollment, although potentially more costly, should be further analyzed in order to meet the needs on a timely basis.

Subsequently, it was determined that a motion under Article 20 could not be brought at this time because the SBC will be conducting a further feasibility study for which a transfer of funds is not required.

Recommendation

The SC and the SBC recommended that the SBC should explore additional options to address enrollment increases while maintaining the integrity of the academic program at the middle school to meet the needs beginning September 2011. The options under further consideration are internal space conversions, inclusive of moving the Wellesley Public Schools Central Administration out of the middle school building; modular classrooms on alternate locations at the middle school; and optimizing classroom utilization. This recommendation was approved by the SC in a vote of 4-0 and by the SBC in a vote of 7-0.

Article 20 of the 2010 Annual Town Meeting provides for the transfer of funds from the Wellesley Public School Department to the Permanent Building Committee (“PBC”) for design and permitting related to renovation, addition or modular construction. On April 26, the SC and the SBC voted to withdraw the motion under Article 20. Funds that would have been transferred to the PBC to oversee modular design and permitting work will be used to support the additional feasibility study.

The SBC will continue to analyze options to resolve the increased enrollment while maintaining the educational program and model at the middle school. A comprehensive project plan, final design, and project cost will be presented for approval and funding at a Special Town Meeting in the fall 2010.

Submitted by School Building Committee, Wellesley Middle School

Terri Tsagaris, Chair (Board of Selectmen)
Chris Ketchen (Deputy Director of Town)
Bella Wong (Superintendent, Wellesley Public Schools)
Josh Frank (Principal, Wellesley Middle School)
KC Kato (School Committee)
John Moran (Director, Facilities Maintenance)
Rob Shupe (Permanent Building Committee)
Jack Haley (Advisory Committee)
Geoff Witheford (citizen with construction background)

April 26, 2010