

**Wellesley Public Schools
School Committee Meeting
Joint Meeting with Select Board & Permanent Building Committee
June 3, 2021
Remote Online Meeting**

The School Committee joined the Permanent Building Committee (PBC) meeting already in progress. Present for the Permanent Building Committee were Chair David Grissino, Vice Chair Tom Goemaat, Suzy Littlefield, Matt King, and Michael Tauer

The School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:16pm Those present included Vice Chair Melissa Martin, Catherine Mirick, members Leda Eizenberg and Jim Roberti. Chair Linda Chow was not present. The Select Board also called their meeting to order with Chair Tom Ulfelder, Vice Chair Lise Olney, and members Beth Sullivan Woods, Ann-Mara Lanza & Colette Aufranc present.

Hardy Project Update

Jeff D'Amico, Compass Project Management noted that detailed schematic design presentations had been given to both the School Committee and the Select Board in May and that the presentation tonight was to show updated information along with current estimated costs and phasing in preparation for the supportive votes needed by the Select Board and School Committee to complete the July 7 submission to the MSBA. Alex Pitkin, lead architect from SMMA gave a short design presentation, then Michael Dowhan from SMMA discussed the current site plan, incorporating comments from the PBC last week.

Mr. D'Amico then addressed the budget and timeline. The Hardy school is scheduled to be open in August 2024. He noted that the current square footage of the building is just over 80,000 square feet, down almost 1400 square feet since the fall. The draft project budget that would go before Town Meeting and the voters this fall is currently is \$69,927,000. This includes the MSBA portion which is estimated to be approximately \$12.8 to \$13.6 million. The town is receiving almost the highest reimbursement rate available at 34.9% of eligible costs, but the effective rate will be between 18% & 20% because of ineligible items, exclusions & caps. He noted that the reimbursable cost per square foot used by the MSBA has not been updated in several years and most MSBA projects currently in process are significantly above that amount. Mr. D'Amico walked through the timing on upcoming meetings. The PBC is expected to vote a recommended scope and budget at their meeting on 6/10. The Select Board and the School Committee would then need to vote to support that recommendation at their meetings on 6/21 & 6/15 respectively.

Lauren Slaven and Joe Pollock of Shawmut Construction then presented the construction phasing plan for the project.

The floor was then opened for discussion.

The Committees discussed how much of the schematic design that is submitted to the MSBA in July is final and how much can change. Mr. D'Amico explained that the scope, including square footage of the building, programs, special education spaces, and general footprint of the building are set. Sitework is very flexible and expected to change through permitting and the exterior look of the building can continue to evolve.

The Committees also discussed that while the Hunnewell & Hardy projects are being built as "sister schools" they are not exactly the same. They will each have their own look to fit in with

their surroundings and will have some different spaces based on programming needs. They will have very similar mechanical systems.

Traffic & parking were also discussed. It was noted that Hardy needs more parking than Hunnewell because they have additional staff with the Skills program and no on street parking adjacent to the school. Mr. Ulfelder explained that traffic on Weston Road was a known problem when picking this site and it is being addressed in large part by the long queuing lanes available for parent pick up and drop off on the Hardy site. There were discussions regarding the necessity of opening Lawrence Road to traffic, with some on the Committee requesting more detailed information on that decision making process. Ms. Mirick noted that while the site circulation is very difficult, the plan is to build in options and flexibility because it is very hard to know exactly how the flow will work before the school opens and our experience at both Sprague and the High School are that traffic is slightly different than originally planned.

Ms. Martin informed the Committees that the School Committee voted last week to reasonably maximize the photovoltaic array on the roof of the school as part of the project. This has been in the project since the beginning and continues to be a valued part.

The discussions also emphasized the importance of continuing to engage and inform the public. There needs to be a lot of education on these projects over the next several months including how the plan was developed and the background.

ADJOURNMENT

At approximately 8:56pm, Vice Chair Melissa Martin adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Mirick
Secretary

Documents and Exhibits Used:

Compass / SMMA Presentation