The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. Those present included Chair Melissa Martin, Vice Chair Linda Chow, Secretary Matt Kelley, and members Sharon Gray and Jim Roberti; Superintendent David Lussier, Assistant Superintendent Cindy Mahr; and Student Advisory Members Violet Lahive and Rachel White. Ms. Martin announced that the meeting was being recorded by local media.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Hardy/Upham and Hunnewell Projects:**
Katherine Cort, resident and Town Meeting member, informed the Committee that as a Town Meeting member she will vote ‘no’ on any motion moving forward with a Hunnewell first plan as she would like all the school projects evaluated together. She listed a number of concerns she has including the closure of a school, building size, traffic and parking issues, redistricting, swing space, consideration of the impact of 40Bs and the dismissal of using the land behind Hardy that alleviates many of the concerns for building the first school. She feels that moving forward without vetting other school sites and not looking at the school projects’ as a whole is irresponsible to taxpayers. She suggests delaying bringing this to a Special Town Meeting until all options are properly vetted.

Qi Yu, a resident and Hardy parent, expressed concern with the current HHU plan and the internal swing space concept, citing disruption to students and families in all the affected schools, social emotional impacts, additional stress to Hardy students whose school may be closing, as well as additional stress to an already worn building by adding more students for 2 years. Ms. Yu also questioned the validity of the enrollment projections and the equity of the Town’s voting process which does not allow for those who are not US citizens to vote in Town, noting there are a number of international families at Hardy who will not have a vote in the process.

Lauren Dupres, who is new to Wellesley and a resident of 5 Fells Circle, does not support the current swing space plan for early Hunnewell and will not support any debt exclusion that will eliminate one or more schools in the community.

Niki Ofenloch, resident and Hunnewell parent, discussed the recent petition with over 200 signatures supporting moving forward with internal swing space and early Hunnewell. She noted parents understand the implications of this proposal and believe that moving forward with both projects simultaneously is in the best interest of all children.

Molly Bruni, 15 Ingraham Road and Hunnewell parent, also supports the internal swing space plan for an early Hunnewell. She, as well as other parents, believe it is a well thought out plan and urges the Committee to move forward with the proposal.
**Practice Wall at Sprague Fields**  
Steve Bruno, resident of 19 Francis Road, indicated he represents a group of 25 residents who strongly oppose Option 1 for the practice wall at Sprague fields, and urged the Committee to reconsider using Option 2 as the location.

David Himmelberger, 387 Linden Street, urged the Committee to defer action on the practice wall and continue to work with the neighborhoods to achieve consensus. He wondered if there are alternative options to the wall such as tightly strung netting fences which would not require ZBA approval.

Jie Bai, 86 Oak Street, spoke in opposition of Option 3 which would place the wall very close to her unit, which she believes will result in additional noise and affect her views of the field.

Dan McHanny 17 Oak Street, expressed his opposition to Option 3 which will affect the view of at least 16 condo units on Oak Street due to the wall’s location. In addition, he feels the wall would block the perimeter of the field from activities such as running and dog walking.

**Recognitions**

Dr. Lussier acknowledged the following individuals and groups:

From Toni Carlson, Director of Library and Innovation: Congratulations to Hardy’s Library teacher **Lisa Rogers** who recently debuted her newly published children’s book, *16 WORDS: WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS AND THE RED WHEELBARROW*, illustrated by Chuck Groenink and published by Schwartz & Wade Books. Before it was published last week, an earlier draft of the book received the 2016 PEN New England Susan P. Bloom Children’s Book Discovery Award.

Lisa also presented a workshop titled **Better Together, Media Literacy: Ethics and Discourse, Rediscovering the Truth** at a conference held jointly by Massachusetts Computer Using Educators, Massachusetts School Library Association and WGBH. Lisa’s session highlighted a unit she teaches her fifth-grade students about disinformation in media and how to identify it when it is viral in scope, and often irresistible in its lure. By introducing students to famous hoaxes from history, she helps her students begin to think critically about what they read, see, and hear.

From Jen MacPherson, Elementary Mathematics Department Head: Congratulations to **Heather Heon**, Math Specialist at Sprague, who recently presented at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics conference sharing the work she did in Wellesley on Math Labs (a professional development model similar to lesson study where teachers plan lessons together and teach and observe together in a classroom). The title of her presentation was "Math Labs to Support Teacher Learning: Considering Cross-District Experiences". She presented with Dr. Lynsey Gibbons from BU.

From Tim Eagan, Department Head of Classical and Modern Languages: Great job by **Rebecca Blouwolff** (WMS French, MaFLA and NECTFL 2019 Teacher of the Year) who was

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**
Ms. Martin notified the Committee that the Board of Selectmen, at its meeting last week, issued guidelines of 3.5 percent for the **FY21 budget** for both Town departments and Schools, with the caveat of making whole the schools for Special Education costs that are above and beyond guideline. She also mentioned that the WPS budget orientation for Advisory Committee is scheduled for November 19th.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**
Dr. Lussier announced there have been questions regarding the **start of school for SY2020-21** since Labor Day is late. He indicated past practice has been to start school the Wednesday before Labor Day, and it is expected that this practice will continue for 2020, making the first day of school Wednesday, September 2, 2020. The Academic Calendar will be brought to the Committee for action later in the fall.

Dr. Lussier reported the first **Superintendent’s Coffee with PTO Presidents** of the year was held last week, and a **Central Council Meeting** is scheduled at Fiske tomorrow. The **Hardy/Upham Visioning Workshop** is scheduled for Thursday, October 3, bringing together educators from Hardy and Upham to review educational programming needs in preparation of the Educational Plan.

**STUDENT ADVISORY**
Ms. Lahive reported Student Congress is discussing **parking for students** around the high school, noting that spaces have decreased over the past few years. They are working to secure additional parking spots along the street near the high school that are not near homes.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDING SYSTEMS DESIGN UPDATE**
The Committee was joined by FMD’s Steve Gagosian, as well as Lisa Sawin and Mark Lee of Harriman Architects, who provided an update on the schematic design work for the Building Systems Update Project. Ms. Sawin reviewed the work that occurred during late spring and summer with faculty and staff including a kickoff meeting, staff surveys, sitting in on classes, conducting programming progress meetings, meeting with PBC, and receiving Art Room teacher feedback.

The original casework and proposed updates were reviewed for each area of the Middle School building. Mr. Gagosian provided the proposed schedule for the classroom work and HVAC to be completed during the summer of 2021; the Art Room work is expected to be completed by September 2021; and the kitchen and envelope repairs should be done by the end of October 2021.

Ms. Martin noted that this work is part of a broader project to renovate the Middle School to help extend its life for an additional 25 years.
CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes Approval: September 3, 2019 Open Session
- Gift Acceptances
- Trip Approval: World Challenge Iceland 2020

After a brief discussion, upon a motion made by Ms. Gray and seconded by Mr. Kelley, the Committee **VOTED** to approve the September 3, 2019 Open Session Minutes as presented. 4 in favor; 1 abstention

After a brief discussion, upon a motion made by Ms. Gray and seconded by Mr. Kelley, the Committee **unanimously VOTED** to approve the remaining Consent Agenda as presented.

PRACTICE WALL AT SPRAGUE FIELD
The Committee was joined by Town Engineer Dave Hickey and Wellesley Lacrosse representative Jerry Nigro.

At the last Committee meeting, action on selecting the location of the practice wall at Sprague Field was deferred to this evening’s meeting. Ms. Chow provided background and next steps for the practice wall. She distributed and reviewed an analysis of Options 1 and 3 outlining the pros and cons from the perspective of various stakeholders’ including the neighbors, Playing Field Task Force, Facilities Management Department, and the Police Department.

One observation was that the orientation of the new tennis courts will now impede sledding on the hill. This location had been previously presented as Option 2 but was removed as a consideration due to concerns from abutters. Based on this new information, perhaps that location could now be reconsidered as an option.

Mr. Hickey noted that some abutters’ concerns were related to disruption and noise that will result from this wall. He indicated that the balls hitting the wall will have minimal sound, and there is no plan for night time use that would require lighting. With reference to the suggestion to use structures with netting, it was noted that the nets rust out, are stolen because they are mobile, and tend to fall apart relatively quickly due to use, and would require replacement every few years, which is costly.

Mr. Roberti expressed concern with this project based on concerns from multiple constituents including the Facilities Management Department and abutters near each proposed location, and noted that it appears to be in violation of the Master Plan that was developed a number of years ago. Based on this, he does not feel he can support this project at this time.

Mr. Kelley clarified that the ZBA decision for the Sprague Field Master Plan provides that certain changes must be brought to the ZBA for approval; the work is not in violation of the Master Plan. With regard to Option 2, the sledding issue was one concern, but there were also concerns with green space. Mr. Kelley does not feel there is consensus of what should be done and he too is not ready to take action.
Ms. Gray wonder whether there is anything that can be done to mitigate some of the concerns of the various stakeholders. She suggested additional outreach to constituents, perhaps setting up a viewing of a lacrosse wall in another town that is in use or a meeting to socialize all the issues with all concerned parties. It was suggested that, due to the alteration of the area from the restructuring of the tennis courts, perhaps Option 2 should be back in consideration and those neighbors should be notified.

Ms. Chow will work with the Playing Fields Task Force and the DPW to determine next steps with constituents.

**SWING SPACE FOR HUNNEWELL PROJECT**

The Committee discussed the internal swing space option and whether it believes that it is a feasible and acceptable swing space option for consideration by the SBC for the Hunnewell project. Dr. Lussier provided background on this issue and indicated that there is an urgency to get into a new Hunnewell building, and this can only be accomplished on an early timeline through using internal swing space. All other possible swing space options have been investigated and are not viable. He believes that it is educationally viable to do this. He noted that staff and faculty as well as Hunnewell parents are in favor of moving forward, recognizing there may be challenges, and he is confident that, if approved, the complexity of this process can be managed.

Ms. Martin referred to the notes from the community meetings summarizing overall themes and views. Questions included whether the art and music rooms will need to be used for classrooms and what spaces would be used at different schools; how will class size guidelines be affected by internal swing space; traffic impact; concern with placing students at Hardy when Hardy is part of the Hardy/Upham project; interest and concern on how Hunnewell families will manage internal swing space; and concerns from Hunnewell families about the management of multiple children in different grade levels and maintaining a sense of the Hunnewell community. There were also questions regarding enrollment and the role of upcoming 40B projects.

Ms. Gray noted that over 300 community members attended the school meetings. She thanked them for their time and commitment to their community.

Mr. Roberti asked when class configurations for internal swing space would be made available; what will happen if enrollment numbers do not come in as projected to support internal swing space; and if this happens, would the internal swing space process be halted?

It was noted that the purpose of the Committee’s decision this evening is primarily to inform the SBC that the School Committee believes that internal swing space is an educationally viable option that should be considered in the feasibility study package that will eventually be acted upon by the School Committee, SBC and Board of Selectmen.

There was a lengthy discussion on this topic. A majority of the Committee supports the overall goal of getting two new schools online as soon as possible and believes that internal swing space is a viable and sound option to help achieve this. The majority
members recognize the complexities that come with this work, but also acknowledge the Administration’s commitment to make this concept work while keeping educational quality high.

Mr. Roberti feels there is more work to be done on a number of issues. He feels more outreach is needed on the projects to help build consensus. He believes that a late Hunnewell plan would be the least disruptive to students and staff and does not feel there is an adequate plan on how to manage families with children in multiple grades at Hunnewell. He expressed his concern with possible overcrowding at schools, that more research is needed on the impact of 40B projects, that there is not a clear transportation plan, and he believes the question of 2 versus 3 schools is still not resolved.

Ms. Gray indicated that a majority of the issues raised have been publicly addressed at recent meetings, as well as over the long term process starting with the Master Plan Committee (MPC), which developed a number of the recommendations that have been accepted by the School Committee and Board of Selectmen, including the number of schools to be built.

After the discussion, upon a motion made by Mr. Kelley and seconded by Ms. Chow, the Committee VOTED to inform the School Building Committee that the School Committee finds the internal swing space for the Hunnewell Project a feasible and acceptable swing space option for consideration by the SBC. The vote passed: 4 in favor; 1 against.

**REDISTRICTING**

**Task Force Charge**

Mr. Kelley distributed a draft of Redistricting Guidelines which the Committee reviewed and provided feedback. Ms. Martin asked Committee members to continue to review the guidelines and provide any further comments at the next meeting.

Mr. Kelley will revise the document based on this evening’s comments for discussion at the next meeting.

**Request for Consultant Proposals**

Dr. Lussier provided an overview of the Request for Quotes for the enrollment study and the Request for Proposals for the Redistricting Study and the need for and work involved with both of these projects.

**Enrollment Study Studies Consultant Request for Quotes (RFQ)**

Ms. Mahr discussed the timeline for the enrollment study RFQ, indicating that it is planned to release the RFQ on October 4th, pending approval this evening, with proposals due back by October 18th. The proposals will then be reviewed and hopefully an award made by the SBC at its next meeting which would be November 14th. Once awarded, it is expected that work will be completed in 6 to 8 weeks, with a proposed completion date of December 31st and presentation in early January 2020. It was noted that the SBC, at its last meeting, voted to authorize the RFQ for the enrollment study.
Upon a motion made by Ms. Gray and seconded by Mr. Kelley, the Committee **unanimously VOTED** for the Chair to work with Ms. Mahr on finalizing the Request for Quotations for the Comprehensive Population and Enrollment Study and Forecast as discussed at the meeting, and release as appropriate. Committee members were asked to submit any changes to Ms. Mahr by end of day Thursday, September 26th.

**Elementary Student Redistricting Analysis Services Consultant Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Ms. Mahr reviewed the proposed requirements and timeline for release of the RFP for the redistricting study. She hopes to release the RFP on October 7th, with clarifying questions from the consultants due by October 16th; any addendums will be posted by October 18th and final submissions due on October 25th.

A team will be selected to review the proposals. First, the non-price proposals will be reviewed and ranked according to quality and attributes listed in the RFP. Once this is completed, the price proposals are then reviewed, and the work is awarded to the most advantageous proposal from a responsive proposer. The timing and deadlines will be driven by the SBC meeting dates.

There was discussion on whether both projects are deemed appropriate for funding from SBC project funds, and questions on whether the selection process should be driven by the School Committee or SBC. It was noted that it is appropriate for project funds to be used for both the enrollment and redistricting studies, and it was felt that the School Committee should lead the work on both projects.

Ms. Mahr indicated the two critical pieces of the RFP are the scope of services and the evaluation criteria for selecting the proposal. It is imperative that the School Committee and SBC are in agreement on these two critical pieces before the proposal goes out to bid. There was discussion concerning the selection process and membership of the selection team, including what role the SBC would have in the selection process, since they are paying for the work. Ms. Mahr informed the Committee that both documents are currently written as such that they are being released under the SBC, however, this can be revised.

The Committee requested additional time to review the RFP before releasing the document. Ms. Martin wondered if the SBC would be amenable to voting the RFP pending the School Committee’s final review and approval.

It was the consensus of the Committee that they would like to discuss with the SBC that the School Committee prefers to run the process internally, with SBC project funds paying for the work. It is expected that the RFP will be finalized and approved by the Committee at its October 8th meeting.
Hunnewell and Hardy/Upham Projects Update
Hunnewell School
Ms. Gray reported the SBC met with the PBC on Thursday to discuss the Hunnewell building option. Discussion was primarily about learning commons, square footage allocations, sustainability aspects and conversation around the Dover Amendment.

Hardy/Upham
Ms. Chow removed herself from the table at 10:10 pm.

Ms. Gray reported a Community Forum on the Hardy/Upham project is scheduled for October 15th at 7:30 pm, in the Middle School Auditorium.

Ms. Chow returned to the table at 10:12 pm

Public Comment
No one present wished to speak

Adjournment
At approximately 10:15 pm, upon a motion made by Mr. Kelley and seconded by Ms. Gray, the Committee unanimously VOTED to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Kelley
Secretary

Documents and Exhibits Used:
Trip Approval: Iceland
WMS Bldg Systems Project Presentation
WMS Bldg Systems Project Art Room Scope Memo
Sprague Practice Wall Options
Hunnewell Swing Space Memo – DL
HHU Notes – School Meetings – 7 Schools
HHU Notes – School Meetings – Summary for FAQs
Town Counsel Memo – Application of Dover Amendment
Draft Redistricting Charge 10-1-19
Draft RFP for SBC Redistricting Support
Draft RFQ October 2019 Demographic/Enrollment Study