

School Building Committee – Minutes - DRAFT
October 24, 2019
Juliani Room, Wellesley Town Hall

Present: Chair Sharon Gray; Vice Chair Thomas Ulfelder; Marjorie Freiman; Mary Gard; Steve Gagorian; Joubin Hassanein; Matt King; David Lussier; Melissa Martin; Jose Soliva.

Absent: Virginia Ferko, Ryan Hutchins, Meghan Jop, Heather Sawitsky; Charlene Cook, Jeffery Dees, Cynthia Mahr and Ellen Quirk.

Ms. Gray opened the meeting at approximately 5:35 p.m.

Public Comment

No member of the public provided comment.

SBC Business

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Ulfelder moved to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2019 SBC meeting, after amendments were proposed by Mr. King and Mr. Ulfelder. Ms. Freiman seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

Enrollment Study Proposal

Dr. Lussier updated the Committee on the process for procuring an enrollment study to inform some of the next steps on the projects, including the redistricting process for Hardy/Upham. After the SBC voted in early fall to authorize the school department to put out a Request for Quotes for an enrollment study, only one of the three firms contacted by WPS provided a quote for the scope of services outlined.

The respondent was FutureThink, an Ohio-based firm that previously provided an elementary enrollment forecast to the Town on behalf of the HHU Master Plan Committee in 2016. The proposal includes a maximum obligation for services of \$18,750. Ms. Gray said that the funds will come out of the Hunnewell study, as that budget included a line item for a demographic consultant.

Dr. Lussier recommended approval of the contract. Ms. Freiman asked for clarification on how far into the future the enrollment projections would look. Dr. Lussier noted that the study would be a 10-year forecast, and would supplement the internal enrollment projections that are done by the school department on an annual basis. He explained that he will continue to recommend that the Town update its long-term enrollment forecasts every 3-5 years.

It was noted that the proposal includes an evaluation of the impacts of future 40B and 40R projects on elementary enrollment. Mr. Ulfelder said it is important to monitor enrollment trends and confirm that a seventh school does not need to be built now.

Mr. Ulfelder moved that the SBC approve funding to FutureThink to conduct an enrollment study for the Wellesley Public Schools, and authorize the SBC chair to sign the contract for an amount not to exceed \$18,750. Mr. Gagosian seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

At approximately 6:00 p.m. upon a motion by Ms. Martin and seconded by Mr. King, the School Building Committee voted unanimously to adjourn.

Documents and Exhibits used

- September 5, 2019 SBC Draft Minutes
- FutureThink enrollment study proposal