

Elementary School Building Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 18, 2020, 7:30AM, <https://amherstma.zoom.us/j/81880139490>

Present: Paul Bockelman, Diane Chamberlain, Dwayne Chamble, Anthony Delaney, Allison Estes, Benjamin Herrington, Sean Mangano, Phoebe Merriam, Michael Morris, Rupert Roy-Clark, Jonathan Salvon, Cathy Schoen, Stephen Schreiber

Not Present: none

Next meeting: To be determined

1. Call to Order

Mr. Bockelman called the meeting to order at 7:31am, conducted via remote participation pursuant to the Governor's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, MGL ch. 30A §18. The meeting was recorded for subsequent posting on the Town website.

2. Election of Chair and Vice-chair

Mr. Bockelman asked Mr. Salvon to describe the duties of a committee chair. Mr. Salvon did so, supplemented with information from Dr. Morris.

Mr. Salvon nominated Mr. Schreiber for chair, which he accepted.

Ms. Schoen nominated herself.

VOTED by roll call: Mr. Schreiber received 3 votes (Mr. Salvon, Mr. Roy-Clark, Mr. Delaney), Ms. Schoen received 5 votes (Ms. Chamberlain, Ms. Merriam, Ms. Estes, Mr. Herrington, Mr. Chamble), 2 abstained (Mr. Morris, Mr. Mangano). Ms. Schoen was elected chair.

Mr. Mangano nominated Mr. Schreiber for vice-chair.

The Committee discussed if Dr. Morris should serve as vice-chair, but did not nominate him.

VOTED unanimously 13-0-0 by roll call that Mr. Schreiber should serve as vice-chair.

A decision on secretary was deferred to a future meeting.

3. Maintenance Report

Dr. Morris shared Mr. Roy-Clark's submission to the MSBA on current maintenance conditions (attached).

4. Enrollment Discussion

Dr. Morris discussed this year's decline in enrollment. A survey of families that have left the District was presented to the School Committee. Consensus around this building project was to

design a school for no more than 600 students; the MSBA will not proceed with hypotheticals such as regionalization with Pelham. The District is currently awaiting a letter from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) stating what enrollment figure to study. The MSBA will consider the District's policies for special education and class size.

Mr. Bockelman asked why maintenance and enrollment are so important to the MSBA. Dr. Morris explained that updates on these items are important for keeping MSBA informed on important changes to schools (such as Fort River's summer renovations) and are used to calculate maintenance reimbursement points. Enrollment defines what the Committee can study.

Mr. Chamble left the meeting at 8:02 and rejoined at 8:03.

Ms. Schoen asked how the Committee could access the District's submissions, and if the Committee could be considering enrollment scenarios both with and without sixth grade moving to the middle school. Dr. Morris said that he would get documents to the Committee within the week, and that most projects study more than one enrollment figures. Ms. Schoen also asked when the District would hear back from the MSBA; Dr. Morris said he anticipated hearing back before the next Committee meeting.

5. Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the previous meeting were not available, so their approval was deferred to the next meeting.

6. Next Meeting and Future Meeting Schedule

Ms. Schoen solicited suggestions for future agenda items. Mr. Bockelman suggested that agenda items should be submitted to the chair outside of public meetings; he also suggested that the Committee adopt a workplan and milestones. Ms. Schoen concurred. Ms. Schoen suggested that the Committee review the previous Wildwood and Fort River studies.

Ms. Chamberlain asked that meetings not always be on Wednesday. Dr. Morris suggested a Doodle poll. Mr. Bockelman asked Dr. Morris how many meetings there should be before the end of the year. Dr. Morris suggested one.

Mr. Schreiber suggested the Committee establish a library on SharePoint for previous studies. Mr. Salvon agreed.

7. Public Comment

Irene Dujovne, Amherst resident and former member of the Fort River School Building Committee and the middle school study. She spoke in support of linking to the previous studies, asked Dr. Morris if the middle school report was ever presented to the School Committee, and

urged the Committee to begin working on the Owner's Project Manager (OPM) Request for Services (RFS) now.

Bruce Coldham, Amherst resident and retired architect, urged the Committee to have as much daylight as possible in classrooms. He offered his time and assistance to the Committee.

8. Items Not Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours before the Meeting

There were no items.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22am.

10. Documents Presented

DRAFT Maintenance and Capital Planning Record, attached