

# Franklin School Building Committee Minutes

September 8, 2011

Call to order: 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Mercer

*Attendance:* Mr. Feeley, Mrs. Sabolinski, Mr. Light, Mr. D'Angelo, Mr. Nutting, Mr. Mercer, Mr. Goode, Mr. Halter, Ms. Collins and Mr. Cafasso. Mr. Mason, Mr. Allevato, Mr. Cameron, Mr. Leblanc and Mr. Nathan were not in attendance. Also in attendance were Sean Fennell, Owners Project Manager, Mary Pichetti from the MSBA, Cindy Douglas from the School Committee and other invited guests.

*Presentation:* Ai3 Architects, who designed the Whitman Hanson model school, spoke to the Committee. The team from Ai3 noted that they have worked on more high schools in the last five years than any other firm in all of New England. They focus 100% of their attention on preK-12 educational design. They also noted that the Whitman Hanson model school has been adapted more than any other MSBA approved model school. They propose a compact multi-level floor plan that reduces the amount of land needed and lowers construction costs. The floor plan, which is oriented around a central courtyard, can also be easily expanded.

A short recess was taken.

Symmes Maini & McKee Associates, who designed the Hudson model school, presented to the Committee. They noted that the Hudson model school, which is nationally recognized, is arranged in a pod configuration - with three pods along a central corridor. For us, they propose a 4 story building – with the lower level being underground.

A short recess was taken.

*Discussion:* Mr. Mercer stated that the Committee will discuss their likes and dislikes of each architect and then rank them 1-4 – one being the architect they like the best and so on.

*Mount Vernon Group Architects:* Mrs. Sabolinski noted that they did their homework and listened to our needs. However, she was unsure if they could deliver. Mr. Halter felt they were the least effective in addressing the site – he felt as if they just plunked down the building. Mr. Goode felt that their choice of exterior was tacky.

*Lamoureaux Pagano Associates Architects:* The Committee felt that the plan was too sprawling for the site. Another dislike is that the cafeteria is at the main entrance.

*Ai3 Architects:* Mr. Feeley liked the way the design fits on the site. Mr. Good liked their design and feels they do a good job with cost control. Ms. Collins likes

that they propose a single road in and a single road out. Mr. Light likes that they connect the Oak/Horace Mann Complex and high school with a bus route.

*Symmes Maini & McKee Associates:* Mr. Cafasso feels they didn't effectively address the parking issues. It was also noted that when the Committee toured Hudson high school, it felt dark to them - and that is of concern. Another dislike is that the cafeteria is also adjacent to the main entrance.

The Committee unanimously voted Ai3 Architects as their number one choice. Symmes Maini & McKee Associates was voted as the number two choice by a majority vote. Mount Vernon Group Architects was voted as the number three choice by a majority vote. Lamoureaux Pagano Associates Architects was voted as the number four choice by a majority vote.

Mr. Fennel noted that the MSBA board does not need to approve our choice, only their staff. He feels confident that we should get this rolling. He stated that he would call Ai3 later this evening to let them know our decision. A letter will also be sent to the MSBA stating our decision. The next few steps will be to secure a contract with Ai3, jump into schematic design – which will need to be approved at the MSBA's January 12, 2012 meeting and bring this to the Town's voters for approval. The Committee will start marketing this idea to the Town soon.

*Meeting Dates:* The next meeting will occur September 26, 2011 at 7 p.m.

*Adjourn:* 8:05 p.m.

Motion: Mr. Feeley

Second: Mr. Goode

Approve: 10

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Barker