

Holbrook Board of Selectmen

Minutes of the Regular Session of

Monday, April 29, 2013

Present: Timothy J. Gordon, Chairman
Brinsley A. Fuller, Vice-Chairman
Kevin J. Sheehan, Clerk
Richard B. McGaughey, Associate
Matthew V. Moore, Associate

In attendance:

School Committee:

Barbara Davis, Chairman; John Flanagan; Beth Tolson
William J. Phelan, Town Administrator
Joseph Baeta, Superintendent of Schools
Daniel Moriarty, Jr., Permanent School Building Committee
Michael Reith, Permanent School Building Committee
Joel G. Seeley, AIA, Symmes Maini & McKee Associates, Owner's Project Manager
Marjorie E. Godfrey, Assistant Town Administrator

Absent: School Committee: Louis P. Pransky; John Callahan, Jr.

The joint meeting with the School Committee was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Gordon, in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Holbrook Town Hall, 1st Floor, 50 North Franklin Street, Holbrook, MA 02343.

It was explained that this meeting is focused on the potential school building project. The discussion would be limited to the Selectmen, the School Committee, and the individuals who were in attendance to present information this evening. The public will have the opportunity to comment on the process at upcoming meetings.

The steps followed through calendar year 2012, relative to building a new school in conjunction with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), were outlined. The building process with the MSBA includes eight (8) modules. The first two modules, the eligibility period and forming the project team, are almost complete. Mr. Seeley and Symmes Maini & McKee Associates were selected as the Owner's Project Manager and Designer in December 2012, to conclude Module 2.

Mr. Seeley explained that the process is now entering Modules 3 and 4, the Feasibility Study portion. During Module 3, the number of school configuration options will be reduced from four to three. By Module 4, one preferred alternative will be determined, and a schematic design will be created. Approval of the MSBA is required prior to the schematic design.

The four options to be studied under the Feasibility Study Agreement (FSA), with reimbursement from the MSBA, include:

- Option 1: Build a 6 – 12 middle/high school, and renovate the current elementary schools
- Option 2: Build a 7 – 12 middle/high school, and renovate the current elementary schools
- Option 3: Build a K -12 elementary/middle/high school, and no work at the elementary schools

Option 4: Build a K – 8 elementary/middle school. The future of the current elementary school buildings would need to be determined, and would not be included in the MSBA reimbursement. The town would also need to determine what the plan would be for the grade 9 – 12 students.

It was discussed that the FSA with the MSBA only defines the scope of work for architectural projects. Any work necessary to resolve the future plans for the grade 9 – 12 students if the K – 8 building alternative is chosen is not architecturally related, and not within the scope of the FSA. Mr. Reith said the goal is to make an informed decision to determine the most cost effective and educationally appropriate solution to be recommended to the MSBA for consideration. Mr. Seeley explained that the MSBA will work with the town. If the town is considering regionalization, there could be a conversation with the MSBA about providing such things as appropriate science labs, etc., so that the school could also be appropriate as a regional high school housing 490 students.

Mr. Gordon said the local vote by the taxpayers is expected sometime between June and September 2014, and a vote will go before town meeting in 2014 also.

Mr. Phelan referred to a letter that was received in May of 2011 from the MSBA and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) that detailed the information the town should consider before going forward with a building project. Apart from the cost, the educational and extracurricular programs, the staffing, the technology, the programs that could be added or expanded, etc., should all be determined in advance, during the planning of the project.

Mr. Gordon advised that the Permanent School Building Committee (PSBC) placed an article on the May 1, 2013 annual town meeting warrant seeking approval of funding a regionalization feasibility study in the amount of \$40,000. Mrs. Davis reported that the School Committee voted unanimously in favor (5:0) of supporting the town meeting article, subject to funding, as part of the feasibility phase, because it needs to be done for one of the options being considered.

It was agreed that a regionalization study will not be limited to only out-of-town options. Chairman Gordon indicated that the next Selectmen's agenda will include a vote to file a regionalization grant application.

Mr. Moore suggested that the minutes of meetings should be distributed.

A subcommittee, including a couple of Selectmen and a couple of School Committee members, will be considered to form a joint selection committee.

It was discussed that joint meetings should be scheduled in the future, either a couple of times a year or quarterly.

MOTION: At 8:06 pm to adjourn the meeting

VOTE: 5:0

Documents:
Agenda
Joint Meeting Handout

Kevin J. Sheehan, Clerk