

Mountview School Building Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2011

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7PM

Present: Chairman Paul Challenger, Tom Pandiscio, Peter Brennan, David White, Nancy Galkowski

Absent: Chris Lucchesi, Michael Sherman, Margaret Watson, Erik Githmark, Jacquie Kelly, Gary Kaczmarek

Others Present: Elizabeth Helder, Recording Secretary

1. Enrollment Data Discussion

Dr. Pandiscio discussed several possibilities how the square footage of the proposed building could be increased. One of the suggestions was to build space in the school to house all of the special education programs. The plan would establish a transition classroom at Mountview and eliminate classrooms in Sterling. Another plan would build a wing in the building to house full-time kindergarten. The wing would have a separate entrance but shared common space (driveway, gym, etc.) and house 12-14 classrooms. He said the Mayo school is 10-years old and the District is already considering a building expansion because of increased enrollment and space issues. Kindergarten kids use less square footage and art and music could be conducted in the classroom. The committee discussed whether the State would reject the increase in the common areas because the increase in student population (kindergarten) would not justify the increase in space? Mr. Brennan said the calculation used by Lamoreaux-Pagano to calculate the size of the building is 150 sq. ft./student.

Dave White suggested moving fifth grade to Mountview, housing the kids in their own wing, and assuming the empty space created by this move for full day kindergarten at the elementary level. Dr. Pandiscio said that in his experience, fifth graders need to have their transitional period to sixth grade in an elementary setting. Principals at the elementary schools have a level of intimacy with faculty and students in that small setting that encourages learning. This personal connection translates to better MCAS results. Principals do not have the time to visit classrooms and integrate themselves into the learning process at the middle school level. He felt that moving the fifth grade to the middle school would not be productive.

Mr. White said he felt that it would be an interesting sell around town to remove the kindergarten from the elementary schools. He said he felt it would make for a bigger battle to approve the project.

The Committee discussed the burden of proof required by the Town to justify enrollment data and increased school building size to the MSBA.

Mr. Challenger said he would have no problem with including middle school aged collaborative special education programs in the new building. However, this inclusion will not address the core problem of how to increase the entire sq. footage – too little space for the regular students.

Dr. Pandiscio will build the argument for 3 additional classrooms for transition rooms, which will add 3000sq. ft. of space to the project to house approximately 20 students in order to help increase the size of the entire building. The MSBA might give project additional space too.

2. New Business

Ms. Galkowski said she spoke to the MSBA regarding the RFP and was informed that the MSBA had "significant issues" with it. However the MSBA would not elaborate on the problems with the RFP. The Committee is still waiting for a date to go in to present enrollment data information and strategy. Mr. Brennan said that once the Committee refines its enrollment data plan, the MSBA would set a meeting date for late September/beginning of October.

The next step for the Committee will be to address RFP issues.

Next meetings are Sept. 13th and September 27th.

3. Adjournment

Motion by Michael Sherman, seconded by David White, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ADJOURN THE AUGUST 23, 2011 MEETING AT 8:39PM.**

APPROVED: