

Sutton School Building Committee
Regular Scheduled Meeting 9/23/2009
Town Hall Meeting Room

Present: Donna Davis, Cecilia DiBella, Mike Jerz, Wendy Mead, Roger Raymond, Ken Stuart, Christine Watkins, Ross Weaver

Absent: Glenn Coulter, Tim Harrison, Jim Smith, Laura Stonebreaker, David Suhl,

Guests: Al Ross (Flansburgh), Carl Weber (SBS) Jon Winikur (SBS), Paul Daigle (HS Principal) Gerard Goyette (MS Principal), Michael Breault (ES Principal), Lauren Dubeau (ELC Principal), Margo Austein (SPED Director), Lucille Dileo (Curriculum Director)

Meeting called to order 7 pm.

1. Presentation by SBS and School Administrators regarding educational philosophy and related building space needs. Each principal and the SPED director had an opportunity to answer questions from members of the SSBC and to present the academic needs for their students. Jon noted that the ideal academic program space needs, approximately 200,000 gsf, was much larger than what the state and town would support and that the administration worked diligently to fit the program into the allowed space (approximately 165,000 gsf). He commended the administration for their hard work.

Gerard Goyette explained the team teaching approach practiced in the middle school. Three teachers (Math, Science, and English) are teamed with approximately 75 students. Each teacher also teaches social studies. There are two teams at each grade level in the MS (6-8).

Wendy stated that the Powerpoint exhibit presented this evening will be uploaded to the website.

2. Last Monday, Sutton had its “kickoff” meeting with the MSBA. The district-wide facility was discussed with the MSBA. Wendy stated that the MSBA will touch base with the district every other Monday either by conference call or on site in Boston. The district reps will be Jon Winikur (SBS), Cecilia DiBella, Wendy Mead, and others as needed.

Christine raised the issue of how the MSBA will address the excess space created at the Elementary School when the 6th grade vacates the space as the Elementary School will have more space than is currently allowed by the MSBA for the projected elementary student population.

Lauren Dubeau (ELC Principal) stated that the elementary school is anxious to reclaim the space for their own program needs.

Jon stated that there is a chance to exchange space and fix some of the geographic issues by moving the central district space into a portion of the vacated space.

Flansburgh has 3 weeks to present options to the SSBC. By the end of October, the SSBC must select an option to present to the MSBA. Once the option is narrowed down, the operating costs, for the building and academic program can be determined. The agreed upon option between the MSBA and the town will be independently costed by two cost estimators who are independent of SBS.

3. Wendy noted that the June 2010 NEASC report must contain an update on where the town is in the process of solving its building issue. The condition of the building and the space deficiencies are currently driving our Warning status. According to Paul Daigle (HS Principal) loss of accreditation will occur if we do not move forward with a new building.
4. The MSBA has organized meetings to explain the new reimbursement process. Tim Harrison (town accountant & SSBC member) will attend. Wendy will invite Sue Rothermich (school business manager) to attend as well.
5. Jon attended the Selectmen's meeting last night to discuss where we are in the process and the statutory requirements which require a vote at the May town meeting.
6. Laura Stonebreaker is stepping down as the school council rep on the SSBC. Wendy stated the school will present a new rep to the Board of Selectmen. After some discussion between members of the SSBC, it was decided that the rep does not have to come from a school group and any member of the community can apply for the open seat.
7. A public information forum regarding the building project is scheduled for 7 pm October 15, 2009. Notice will be posted on Cable TV, 3 forms of local media, and through email lists of various groups in town. Principals are invited to put the information on their school websites.

Motion to adjourn by Donna, seconded by Ken. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectively submitted.

Christine Watkins
Recording Secretary