

Sutton School Building Committee

Regular Scheduled Mtg. 1/6/10, 7:00 PM

Town Hall Mtg. Rm.

Present: L. O'Neill, K. Stuart, R. Raymond, C. Watkins, M. Jerz, T. Harrison, J. Smith, W. Mead, C. DiBella, D. Davis, M. Roach, R. Weaver.

Absent: G. Coulter

Guests: V. Dube (Flansburgh Assoc.), J. Winikur (SBS)

1. Michael Roach was welcomed to the committee. Michael is replacing longtime committee member David Suhl whose employment outside of the country precludes further involvement here.

The Committee thanks David for his efforts on behalf of the Sutton Schools (and on behalf of other town boards and committees) and wishes him the best in his current position.

2. Motion by Roger Raymond to approve the minutes of the 12/2/09 meeting. Second by Tim Harrison. Approved 8-0-0 (all those present at both meetings).
3. Wendy Mead gave an update on the MSBA schedule. The next meeting of the MSBA BOD is on Wednesday, January 27, 2010. As of our meeting date, the agenda for the MSBA BOD meeting had not been set. Wendy will follow-up with MSBA to determine whether the Sutton Schools project is on the agenda.

Jon Winikur referred to a review by telephonic meeting with MSBA, during the holiday week, on the Feasibility Study report. Some additional information was requested by MSBA, which is being assembled and will be submitted quickly.

Jon stated that the MSBA has been developing guidelines and/or modifying requirements for projects that involved combined or adjoining construction of a high school and middle school. One result has been to establish a single square-foot-per-student value rather than different values for high school students and for middle school students when in separate facilities. The net effect of this change has been to reduce by 3,000 sq. ft. the total allowable square footage of the Sutton Middle/High School project.

For example, if this project was entirely of new construction, a total of 165,000 sq. ft. of construction would have been allowed for the school populations under the regulations established for the individual schools. Applying the modified regulations for a structure with some shared facilities, the total allowable square footage is reduced to 162,000 sq. ft. for the combined student population.

The Sutton Middle/High School project will include the existing Core Building and, as some of the facilities within the existing building exceed current space allowances – most notably the gymnasium – the total allowable square footage for this project will exceed 162,000 sq. ft. However, whatever the final allowable square footage is determined to be, it will be 3,000 sq. ft. less than would have

been allowed under the guidelines or regulations in effect when the Feasibility Study was prepared.

Several members of the committee expressed disdain that the guidelines or regulations have been changed in the middle of the process.

Jon also stated that the MSBA was opposed to relocating the School Department offices into a portion of the space that will become available in the Elementary School when all Middle School classes are relocated to the new facility. The reason offered was that the building was constructed for academic use, in part with state money. As the MSBA regulations do not allow for reimbursement for school department management facilities, it was deemed inappropriate to “give” the town space within the Elementary School in which to construct the School Department facilities.

The town will have to provide or obtain space in which to construct the School Department facilities. Several alternatives are or will be explored.

On a related detail, correspondence from Chris Alles at MSBA has been posted on the Feasibility Study website. A response has been submitted.

Christine Watkins requested that an index be provided on the website to identify the location of this and future documents as well as the existing documents. Vince Dube agreed to do so.

4. Vince Dube presented some preliminary drawings and information related to the next phase of design.

The MSDEP has officially stated that the well protection zones must have a 163’ radius. The net effect on the building project is to reduce restrictions on the entry areas onto the campus and into the facilities.

Flansburgh has used the general concepts of “Option C” to prepare four variations. The general concepts include: a) elimination of the existing High School facility and no construction within that space, b) retaining and renovating the Core Building primarily as the High School but with some shared facilities and, c) demolition of the existing Middle School and construction of new Middle School facilities more-or-less within that space. Other general design concepts include: d) distinct – although adjoining – spaces or facilities for the Middle School and for the High School, e) allowing people (and, as necessary, equipment) to move through the Middle School or High School with minimal disruption and, f) access to the existing music suite in the Elementary School.

Applying these general criteria, conceptual drawings for three alternative lay-outs were presented. A fourth alternative would eliminate the physical connection between the Middle School and the Elementary School. One result of the fourth alternative (or similar variant) would be to eliminate the covered access to the existing music suite. Consequently, inclusion of a new music suite within the new Middle School or renovated Core Building/High School would be required.

The committee members were asked to state an opinion on elimination of the physical connection between the Middle School and Elementary School as the opinion of the committee would determine whether or not Flansburgh would continue to develop that – or any similar – alternative. With some stipulations, the opinion of all committee members present was that elimination of the physical connector was acceptable if doing so produced the best design.

5. Old Business:

Motion by Roger Raymond to approve the minutes of the 5/13/09 meeting, seconded by Ken Stuart. Approved 7-0-0 (the majority of those present at both meetings).

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, 2010, 7:00 PM.

Motion by Jim Smith to adjourn, second by Donna Davis. Vote unanimous, adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Ross Weaver, Recording Secretary