

FACILITY PLANNING
INFORMATIONAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2005

MINUTES

PRESENT: Bob Gerseny, Chairman; Marshall Rowe, School Board; Richard Ayers, Superintendent; Frank Marinace, Architect; Michelle Clark, Business Administrator; Steve Chamberlin, Principal, Hopkinton Middle/High School; Michael Bessette, Principal, Maple Street School; Bill Carozza, Principal, Harold Martin School.

Peter Russell, Bev Johnson, Nelson Thibault, Charlotte Thibault, Peter Gagnon, Kathleen Callahan Lawrence Keniston, Mike Alberici, Julie Morris, Dan Meserve, Mike Pfeffer, Will Renault, Camille Harris, Byron Carr, Michelle Benson

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Bob Gerseny, Chairman. Mr. Gerseny introduced Dr. Ayers, Superintendent; Marshall Rowe, School Board Representative; and Frank Marinace, Architect.

Mr. Gerseny noted the purpose of the meeting was to share information and present the Board Facility Committee's thoughts. Mr. Gerseny emphasized that the meeting was the beginning of the facility process. Mr. Gerseny noted the hope is to complete a broad based review of our facilities and to look at the expectations and needs we might have over the next ten to twenty years.

Mr. Gerseny reported that the Administrators presented their concerns and thoughts to the School Board and a Board Facility Committee was developed. An inventory of the District's needs and issues was compiled. The School Board was notified that community groups would like their needs incorporated into this facility project. Mr. Gerseny stated that there is a need to discuss what the scope should be and further study what is needed in order to engage the community in this process. It was determined that a general committee would be divided into four subcommittees: Planning Committee, Educational Specifications and Design Committee, Construction Committee and Public Information Committee, in order to incorporate as many community members and groups in the planning process as possible and to develop a rationale and common sense based decision to enhance or correct our educational facilities and recommend potential renovations and expansions.

Recommended Renovations and Expansions:

Maple Street School – Gymnasium, public space, modified parking and possible new SAU office.

Harold Martin School – HVAC system, windows, , security controlled entry, parking

Middle/High School – Security issues, student services issues, access to auditorium, vehicular patterns, and additional classroom space.

Dan Meserve noted that the high school facility plan at this time is limited in scope. Dr. Ayers noted that the plan, at this time, is a short list of projects that have come forward since the initial planning began. The plan needs to incorporate school and community needs.

Marshall Rowe noted that if the opportunity is there to receive financial support from outside sources which would benefit the School District and residents of Hopkinton, the School Board is interested in doing that. Mr. Rowe also noted that the expectation is to make sure we are utilizing our buildings to their maximum potential. Mr. Rowe stated that our first responsibility is to meet the needs of the students and to provide the students with an education that is appropriate. Mr. Rowe noted that the students leave in the afternoon and if there is a way for the community to use the facilities, it should be incorporated into the facility planning process.

Frank Marinace, Architect, stated that after the architects walked through the schools, they needed to evaluate state codes and life safety codes requirements. Mr. Marinace noted that the State needed to approve all school building renovations and expansion plans. Mr. Marinace noted that Maple Street School's issues were the need of a real gymnasium, stage at the end of the gymnasium which would double as a music room, new entrance to the gymnasium, special education rooms, science rooms, ancillary space off the gymnasium for PE and Coach offices as well as bathrooms and the purchase of property next to Maple Street School would be necessary. Mr. Marinace noted that Harold Martin School had the best site as far as land. He noted Harold Martin School would need to change the entry to the school and the traffic pattern, and storage areas. Mr. Marinace noted that the Middle/High School needs include additional parking, and expansion of the cafeteria.

Peter Gagnon, community member, asked if there had been any thought to building up rather than out. Mr. Marinace noted the problem with building up is the building would need to adhere to the earthquake codes requirement which would include reinforcing the block walls with 3 ½ foot reinforcements or incorporate a steel frame which would be very expensive.

Mr. Rowe noted we need to exam the needs of the community and determine if the project can address these needs. Mr. Rowe stated that the Facility Committee has set up a website to inform the community of the project's progress.

Charlotte Thibault, community member, asked of the three schools, SAU Office, life safety issues which had the highest priority. Mr. Gerseny stated that it would be the community's need that would determine what has the highest priority.

Peter Russell, selectmen, stated that new state codes have been established and thought needs to be given to those codes that must be completed. Mr. Marinace noted that at some point there will be a mandate from the state to bring the buildings up to code.

Peter Russell inquired if the District had discussed with the Hopkinton Fair Association possibly establishing student parking on the fairgrounds. Dr. Ayers noted that was a great idea and he would check into it.

Kathleen Callahan asked if thought had been given to moving grades within buildings. Mr. Rowe noted that proposal was presented back in the 80's and was rejected by the community and a commitment was made to maintain the three schools.

Mr. Rowe noted the Board Facility Committee needs your help in this process. There are note cards on your table. Please write your name and the subcommittee you would like to participate on.

The meeting was adjourned by Bob Gerseny at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cettie Connolly