

## West Elementary School Building Committee Minutes

Thursday, March 5, 2020 – 7:30AM

SC Room – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor – School Admin Building

### Present:

Voting Members: Heather Eigen, Janet Nicosia, Siggy Pfendler, Donna Walsh, Jennifer Hunt, Paula Colby-Clements, Sheldon Berman

Non-Voting Members: Mark Johnson, Esq., Tracey Spruce, Esq., Carol Green

PMA Consultants: Steve Rusteika, Kevin Weeks

SMMA Architects: Lorraine Finnegan

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West Elementary School Building Committee Chair (SBC), Paula Colby Clements, opened the meeting at 7:33AM.

### ***Approval of Invoices and Change Orders. Minutes approved. Vote expected***

*On a Motion* made by Susan McCready and seconded by Sheldon Berman, the West Elementary School Building Committee approved the Feb. 6, 2020 meeting minutes. *On a Motion* made by Donna Walsh and seconded by Sheldon Berman, the West Elementary School Building Committee approved the Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Both motions for meeting minutes were unanimously approved on a 7-0 vote.

Invoice from SMMA Architects #0051871 dated Dec 9, 2019 was submitted for payment. Paula Colby-Clements read the amount on the invoice for \$20,000 for professional services. *On a Motion* made by Susan McCready and seconded by Sheldon Berman, the West Elementary School Building Committee approved the invoice read by Paula today. The motion was unanimously approved on a 7-0 vote

### ***Review of Education Plan. Vote Expected***

Lorraine Finnegan stated there were 2 issues that were raised around spaces regarding the SAIL Program in the Educational Plan. The SAIL model available for students who need supportive model services for students – rooms will be used for this; The Bridge Program needs a separate conf. room for the Team to meet regularly. Those comments don't change the Ed plan just to the space summary.

Tracey Spruce questioned the costs estimates – she was surprised at high they were at this point. She wanted to be sure the Committee approves the right size for the building. Lorraine recommends submitting the PDP with a wish list to see how the MSBA responds and what the reimbursement will be. Nothing is definite now; there is always time to change. Lorraine said that doesn't happen until the Schematic Design phase.

The Superintendent stated that even if the enrollment number were to go down, the number of classrooms (35 classrooms) won't change. It could change the size of the cafeteria size or auditorium. Susan McCready and Paula Colby Clements reminded the Community that we have two schools (PreK included) that will be located in this new building. The School Committee will need to redistrict students to this new building as well. All these components will make up enrollment numbers for the school. The total costs include opening the building and furnishings as well. Also there will be existing equipment in the existing West Elementary school that will be distributed to the other schools in the district. Janet Nicosia cautions against going smaller since she sees over time that Plant & Facilities is called to make spaces (i.e. closet space, etc). The goal of building a new school is not to open the school at capacity but to build up to that capacity over time. The school needs to last 50 years – not to say that the roof or boilers/heating system will not need to be replaced before that. But the structure must be maintained and should last 50 years – which Andover has done with its present buildings very well.

Susan stated that people need to understand what is driving the costs. This is a school for all of Andover - not just for the West Elementary community. The Educational Plan approved are district wide – this will be on our website. West Elementary will host events that impact the whole community.

Lorraine also stated that she would like to add this current discussion to Section 2 of the introduction to the Ed Plan. It would be good for MSBA to read this as well.

*On a Motion* made by Susan McCready and seconded by Janet Nicosia, the West Elementary School Building Committee approved the Education Plan as currently presented with the edits that SMMA will make that reflect the discussion from this morning. The motion was unanimously approved on a 7-0 vote.

***Finalize Building Concepts and Placement on Site for Preferred Design Program (PDP). Vote expected.***

Lorraine stated that all the sections were put on the Committee site for review. Paula asked if we approve something today, can we still change our mind on placement of the building. She wants to be sure these are still possibilities to review. Lorraine said the Committee can still change their mind on placement. She further said that at our next meeting more discussions can take place on this subject. Mark said we need to be careful about assuming that we can fill in wetlands without talking to the Conservation Commission. At least we know for now, the wetlands do not contain protected species as stated in the state wise conservation maps. Janet Nicosia stated that it is an opportunity to talk to the Conservation Commission about general ideas about wetland replication. They have been hesitant to talk about this outside of a meeting.

Steve Rusteika pointed out in the handout on Conceptual Construction Cost Comparison. The difference is the auditorium, adding modulars, etc. Depending on the concept, the costs varied in the chart.

*On a Motion* made by Susan McCready and seconded by Jennifer Hunt, the West Elementary School Building Committee approved the Preliminary Design Program as amended to be submitted to the MSBA. The motion was unanimously approved on a 7-0 vote.

***Public comments may be heard by the SBC Chair(s)***

Paula reminded the Committee that there are dates set aside to meet every two weeks. She also presented the idea of moving a couple meetings in the evening or to another time as the process continues. We will need to engage the public more and morning time is probably not best for all.

***Selection of Next SBC Meeting date(s) and main subject.***

*On a Motion* made by Sheldon Berman and seconded by Janet Nicosia, the West Elementary SBC voted to adjourn the meeting of March 5, 2020 at 8:17 am. The Committee voted 7-0 to adjourn.

Respectfully,  
Alison Phelan, Recorder

**CERTIFICATION**

The West Elementary School Building Committee vote took place on March 5, 2020 and was duly recorded.

***Town Clerk and Chief Strategy Officer:***

Austin Simko

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Date:

Town Stamp: