

MEDFIELD SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting

March 29, 2023 - 7:00 pm

Public Safety Building Training Room, 112 North Street, also available via Zoom

PRESENT: Mike Weber, Interim Chair
Jessica Reilly
Anthony Papantonis
Mather Eldred
Robert Donahoe
Robert Meaney
Robert Worth
Michelle Kirkby
Teresa James
Carolyn Casey
Meredith Chamberland
William Werner
Kristine Trierweiler, ex-officio, non-voting member
Stephen Grenham, ex-officio, non-voting member

NOT PRESENT: Dr. Jeffrey Marsden, ex-officio, non-voting member

1. Vote on approval of meeting minutes from March 2, 2023 Meeting

➤ Committee members discussed edits

MOTION:

➤ Mr. Papantonis made the motion to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. Werner seconded the motion.

- Michelle Kirkby - yes
- Robert Worth - yes
- Carolyn Casey - yes
- Bob Meaney - yes
- Teresa James - yes
- Robert Donahoe - yes
- William Werner - yes
- Jessica Reilly - yes
- Dr. Meredith Chamberland - yes
- Anthony Papantonis - yes
- Mather Eldred - yes
- Mike Weber - yes

2. Co-Chair discussion and vote

➤ Mr. Weber stated Dr. Chamberland has volunteered to help run the committee.

- Ms. Casey stated the committee should have a vote on the role prior to voting to appoint someone as co-chair
- Ms. Kirkby agreed and said she would like a specific conversation about how we define the role of this person.
- Ms. Casey discussed the roles of a co-chair vs. a vice chair. She didn't have a preference, but just wanted to discuss.
- Mr. Weber stated he liked the idea of co-chair in setting the agenda and ensuring things weren't missed. Division of work would be beneficial to have a co-chair.
- Mr. Meaney stated the division should be worked out between the two volunteers.
- Ms. Kirkby asked if they should consider term limits.
- Ms. Casey suggested that maybe a year term and then re-evaluate.
- Mr. Weber said he was fine with a year term.

MOTION:

- Ms. Casey made a motion to have co-chairs of the committee that have terms of one year. Mr. Papantonis seconded the motion.
 - All in favor. None opposed.

MOTION:

- Ms. Casey made a motion to have Mike Weber serve as one of the chairs of the School Building Committee. Dr. Chamberland seconded.
 - Michelle Kirkby - yes
 - Robert Worth - yes
 - Carolyn Casey - yes
 - Bob Meaney - yes
 - Teresa James - yes
 - Robert Donahoe - yes
 - William Werner - yes
 - Jessica Reilly - yes
 - Dr. Meredith Chamberland - yes
 - Anthony Papantonis - yes
 - Mather Eldred - yes
 - Mike Weber - abstain
- Mr. Werner made a motion for Dr. Chamberland to serve as the other chair of the School Building Committee. Mr. Eldred seconded.
 - Michelle Kirkby - yes
 - Robert Worth - yes
 - Carolyn Casey - yes
 - Bob Meaney - yes
 - Teresa James - yes
 - Robert Donahoe - yes
 - William Werner - yes

- Jessica Reilly - yes
- Dr. Meredith Chamberland - abstain
- Anthony Papantonis - yes
- Mather Eldred - yes
- Mike Weber - yes

3. Subcommittee discussion and possible vote on appointments to form this subcommittee and get working on an RFP to hire an outside firm to get townwide feedback on school project.

- Mr. Weber stated that they started this discussion previously, but in his mind at minimum they should get a subcommittee together to work on an RFP to hire an outside firm to start community engagement. Mr. Werner stated he received one volunteer for the subcommittee.
- Ms. Casey confirmed she volunteered to be on the subcommittee.
- Mr. Papantonis asked what we are looking for in this subcommittee.
- Ms. Casey answered that they would try to see why the original vote failed. Then hopefully get enough information from that to figure out how to make it work moving forward.
- Various committee members discussed the number of surveys already done, why the original vote failed, benefits of quantifiable data, how a professional can gather clear and objective data, history of number of people voting, other failed school votes, how the outside firm could help this committee engage with the public.
- Mr. Werner volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. We need to be very specific on how we spend this money and what we think is worthwhile. Hesitant to do more surveys before we understand the costs and the existing Dale Street School conditions and whether it can be reused.
- Mr. Weber stated that those two items are outside of the work of the subcommittee.
- Mr. Werner agreed but we need to figure those out before we can work with a consultant to work with us on how to move forward.
- Mr. Weber said yes those are parallel paths.
- Ms. James volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.
- Mr. Meaney volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.
- Dr. Chamberland appointed Ms. Casey, Mr. Werner, Ms. James, and Mr. Meaney to serve on the communications subcommittee.

4. School Committee Updates:

a. New School Committee member replacement for Jess

- Ms. Kirkby stated there are two new School Committee members voted in at the last town election. We decided at the last School Committee

meeting that we would decide who would replace Ms. Reilly at the April 13th School Committee meeting.

b. Review of School Committee packet presentation

- Ms. Kirkby stated that 2 Fridays ago the School Committee held a workshop specifically on what materials would help the SBC. We ask that everyone read through the packet before the next meeting and then at our next meeting we can discuss questions. This will allow a common baseline of knowledge.
- Ms. Kirkby then stated that at the next SBC meeting they are asking Dr. Marsden and Mr. Grenham to speak at the next meeting on the evolution of teaching and how space impacts education.
- Mr. Worth agreed the space feels much different now. It is a lot more autonomous with workshops as opposed to teachers just talking and meant to prepare kids for the future of work.
- Ms. Kirkby said this coming Monday at Dale Street there will be a strategic plan focus group meeting for the schools with information taken from the focus groups used to form a 5-year plan. Part of that will also be a survey to get community feedback.

c. Warrant article for an additional \$250k for SBC

- Ms. Kirkby stated that there is a warrant article for the SBC sponsored by the School Committee and Select Board for an additional \$250K. The language mirrors what was done at last year's town meeting.
- Mr. Weber stated that we will know what MSBA says in Nov/Dec but the next Town Meeting won't be until May. The last thing we want to do is say we have a lot of good ideas but we ran out of money.
- Mr. Meaney said do we need to be prepped on what we are going to do with the money asked for at this Town Meeting?
- Ms. James agreed, what is our priority?
- Mr. Werner stated time is of the essence and we need to ask for some grace that we are just beginning and we don't know what we don't know at this point.
- Mr. Weber agreed, we don't even know what MSBA decision is yet.
- Mr. Edred said we could have the Chair of the Warrant Committee come in sometime and do a presentation on his breakdown of costs and projections.
- Ms. Casey said that the priority should be the costs and maybe put the presentation on education later.
- Mr. Weber agreed.

5. Discussion and informational item in packet - MSBA FY2023 SOI Submission

a. SC voted on at their March 23 meeting

b. BOS to discuss and vote at their April 4 meeting

- Mr. Donahoe asked questions on the current MSBA submission and why certain deficiencies were checked off. Discussion continued amongst committee members on the condition of the current Dale Street School and speculation as to why they weren't listed.

Public Comment

- Casey Worth, citizen commenter, asked if the zoom link for meetings could be easier accessible.
- Chris Potts, citizen commenter, 7 Curve Street stated that a member of the Select Board recently met with MSBA and they stated that additional money may need to be voted in for a feasibility study if we are accepted. Sentence on page 11 of the SOI about increased school population differs from what Trinity is telling us about the development at MSH. Committee members discussed this point.
- Kristin Simonini, citizen commenter, agreed we should broaden that discussion.

Adjournment

- Mr. Weber - is there a motion to adjourn the meeting?

MOTION: Mr. Eldred made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Casey seconded the motion. Roll Call vote:

- Michelle Kirkby - yes
- Robert Worth - yes
- Carolyn Casey - yes
- Bob Meaney - yes
- Teresa James - yes
- Robert Donahoe - yes
- William Werner - yes
- Jessica Reilly - yes
- Dr. Meredith Chamberland - yes
- Anthony Papantonis - yes
- Mather Eldred - yes
- Mike Weber - yes

Respectfully Submitted,
Brittney Franklin