

**MEDFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**September 12, 2022**

**PRESENT:** Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke - Chair  
Timothy Knight - Vice Chair  
Jessica Reilly - Recording Secretary  
Michelle Kirkby - Financial Secretary  
Leo Brehm - Member at Large (arrived at 8:00 pm)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Jeffrey Marsden - Superintendent of Schools  
Michael LaFrancesca - Director of Finance and Operations  
Andrea Moores - Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 pm by Committee Chair Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke. Ms. O'Shea Brooke explained that the Committee would accept public feedback via Zoom at this meeting. Members of the public who wish to speak were instructed to use the raise your hand feature in Zoom to be brought over via video for public comment. The Committee would not be accepting public comments using the Zoom chat window.

**Review, discuss and potentially vote on School Committee application for new elementary school feedback - presented by Ms. O'Shea Brooke**

The Committee submitted its initial application to the Board of Selectmen at their meeting held on September 30, 2022. At that meeting the Board of Selectmen requested more feedback from the Community before voting on the School Committee's New Elementary School application. In an effort to gain the feedback desired by the Board of Selectmen the School Committee solicited feedback from the community by distributing a public feedback form to the school community via publication in the Medfield Patch as well as via an email to families in the District. The Committee received 101 responses.

Ms. O'Shea Brooke stated that the Committee would need to decide if they want to submit the New Elementary School application as is, or make some amendments based on the feedback. The New Elementary School application will need to be submitted to the Board of Selectmen for their meeting on Tuesday, September 13, 2022.

Ms. O'Shea Brooke asked Committee members to share their thoughts on the feedback received from the Public Input Form.

Ms. Jessica Reilly stated that some of the feedback was geared towards the educational plan and other feedback focused on the location, process and timeline of the New Elementary School project. Ms. Reilly clarified the difference between the School Committee and the School Building Committee (SBC). Her impression from the feedback was that a new school is wanted but it was not clear if there was a preference for a renovation or a new building. She was concerned about the misconception that the Committee wants to place students in one large building. Ms. Reilly stated that the Committee should address some of the misconceptions in the feedback received.

Ms. Kirkby thanked the community for their feedback and stated that the common themes that stuck out to her were time, cost, communication, community engagement, and the need for a new school. She stated

that it will be important for the new SBC to understand where the community is getting information on the project. She also shared her ideas for making the information more accessible to the public.

Mr. Knight stated that the common themes were cost, location, configuration and student population. He also shared his thoughts on the roles of the SBC and the School Committee. He stressed the importance of having a united SBC that can present a building that the Community will support for a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote.

Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke stated that the School Committee is beginning this process in a new and different way by sharing this information with the public and seeking feedback from the Community. The feedback has also been shared with the Town Administrator, Town Moderator and the Board of Selectmen. Ms. O'Shea Brooke addressed the misconception that the Committee is pushing another project at Wheelock by stating that the Committee is unequivocally not, and the intent is to start fresh. She stated that she was intrigued by some of the ideas shared via the feedback form. Ms. O'Shea Brooke views this application as step one in the overall process for the New Elementary School project. She reiterated that the Committee is flexible, is not proposing a mega school, and there is a lot of work still to be done.

Mr. Leo Brehm stated that the feedback received that the application is for another Wheelock project is a misconception. If the Massachusetts State Building Authority (MSBA) accepts the project, the Town would engage in the MSBA prescribed process beginning with a clean slate. He also was encouraged by the ideas shared via the feedback form addressing the needs of existing buildings.

**Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke opened the meeting to public comment.**

There was no public comment at this time.

Ms. O'Shea Brooke read the amended New Elementary School Application. The Committee discussed each section of the application, and made edits to the application as they reviewed the document. The revised application will be submitted to the Board of Selectmen for its September 13th meeting.

**Ms. O'Shea Brooke opened the meeting to public input before the School Committee's anticipated vote to approve the revised application.**

Chris McCue Potts, 7 Curve Street, shared her concerns about the terminology being used in the application as it relates to student enrollment and the size of a new school and wants the School Committee to develop a building size policy.

Robert Sliney, 6 Overfield Road, stated that this is an application to get the process started, not to adjudicate the last election. He stressed the importance of forming a Committee that can address the communication deficits, lack of participation and cost concerns from the last project.

A motion was made by Mr. Timothy Knight, seconded by Ms. Kirkby to approve the School Committee's amended New Elementary School application to the Board of Selectmen.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**Discuss potential process for selecting School Committee appointed members as per new School Building Committee by-law - presented by Ms. Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke**

Ms. O'Shea Brooke stated that once the application is approved by the Board of Selectmen, the SBC selection process will need to be solidified. Ms. O'Shea Brooke asked School Committee members who would like to be the School Committee representative on the SBC to let her know. Ms. O'Shea Brooke is hoping to gain insight and clarification on the selection process at the Board of Selectmen meeting. Ms. O'Shea Brooke shared the application process that the town of Longmeadow used to select its SBC and hopes to use it as a model for Medfield.

Ms. Jessica Reilly brought to the attention of the Committee the fact that the feedback released to the public did not include names and or addresses but the information is public record and could be requested.

A motion was made by Ms. Reilly, seconded by Ms. Kirkby to adjourn the meeting.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 pm.

**Next Meeting – September 15, 2022**

#### **EXHIBITS AND DOCUMENTS**

- School Committee Application for new elementary school Feedback - Verbatim
- 2022 Dale Street SOI 4/25/22
- Dale Street Ed Plan Final 4-5 Configuration 3/16/2020
- Enrollment Data
- Email to Families and Community - re: SC application to BOS
- SC application to Board of Selectmen 2022

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrea Moores  
Secretary

**Minutes Approved by School Committee: November 7, 2022**