RE: Establishing a School Building Committee

1 message

gmurby@lexlead.com <gmurby@lexlead.com> Tue, May 31, 2022 at 3:13 PM
To: Scott McDermott <scott@nhpllc.com>, Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke <amosheabrooke@email.medfield.net>, Jessica Reilly <jreilly@email.medfield.net>
Cc: Jeff Marsden <jmarsden@email.medfield.net>, Kristine Trierweiler <ktrierweiler@medfield.net>, Michael Quinlan <mikequinlan.is@gmail.com>, Sharon Tatro <statro@kbsfw.com>

Good morning, everyone,

Sorry for the delay in joining in on this discussion, but I was tied up last week with a couple of other town issues and just didn't get to this one. At the point that we are ready to call for the formation of a new school building committee, I'll be happy to have that added to one of our upcoming BoS meetings to officially initiate the formation of the SBC, as specified in our newly adopted bylaw revision. Our currently scheduled BoS meetings fall on June 7th and June 21st, but we may also wind up scheduling a third meeting on June 14th, in light of the recently called Special Town Meeting on June 21st.

In preparation for initiating the process to establish a school building committee, the bylaw calls for the School Committee to file an application for the school project with the BoS, so that's actually the first step in the process. The bylaw doesn't specify exactly what that "application" should address, so let me share my thoughts here on what I think needs to be in the application. My intent here is not to introduce a bureaucratic procedure, but to get us to collectively think about what should be done at this early stage in the process to get the project pointed in a good direction right out of the gate.

While we have had a number of discussions over the past six months about why the previous school project failed, and there are quite likely differences of opinion among us on what the full set of factors is and the degree to which specific concerns were driving factors, I think we have broad agreement on two of the major factors – 1) People wanted greater transparency (i.e., timely access to information) throughout the process, and 2) the town's taxpayers became too polarized in their positions with regard to the school project, making it virtually impossible to achieve a 2/3's majority for any option that might have been put on the table. While we have a revised bylaw that specifies how a new school building committee will be formed to, presumably, result in a committee that addresses both of these issues, I think it's important for us to ensure that that committee is being pointed in the right direction from the start, before we put people on it and open up the corral gate to let the committee loose. As I see it, that calls for a project application from the School Committee that sets overall parameters for the requested project that will give town residents a good sense of what the intent is for the project. If we do a good job of that, I think we will start the process of bringing the town back together – and I think that is a crucial step for setting the new school building committee up for success.

Jessica, the last time that you and I talked, I mentioned the Facebook conversation I had seen that had Wheelock and Dale proponents agreeing on a path forward that they both could support. That Facebook conversation raised the idea of establishing two elementary school "campuses" – one at Wheelock, and one at Dale. Recognizing that one anecdotal Facebook conversation hardly constitutes objective evidence of much, you responded that this two-campus concept was actually something that the School Committee was interested in doing, but MSBA restrictions limited the town's ability to pursue this path (at least publicly). My intention in mentioning this point here is not to lobby for this specific option. Clearly, it's the School Committee's role to establish the "education strategy/ desired grade

configuration” for our town’s schools, but I think the School Committee should come out with a clear statement of what it is trying to do, strategically, with regard to the configuration of school grades as part of its explanation for what it is looking for from this specific requested school project. I think doing that could go a long way toward blunting some of the likely/possible criticisms that could be directed at the school project as a new school building committee moves forward with detailed planning.

So, if my thoughts here make sense to all of you, I would ask the School Committee to put the description of what it wants to see, by way of this reconceived school project in an application to the BoS. As soon as we can get that, we’ll put the item on our meeting agenda and, I anticipate, approve the request promptly!

Gus

From: Scott McDermott <scott@nhpllc.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 4:21 PM
To: 'Gus Murby - Lexington Leadership' <gmurby@lexlead.com>; 'Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke' <amosheabrooke@email.medfield.net>
Cc: 'Jeff Marsden' <jmarsden@email.medfield.net>; 'Kristine Trierweiler' <ktrierweiler@medfield.net>; 'Michael Quinlan' <mikequinlan.is@gmail.com>; 'Jessica Reilly' <jreilly@email.medfield.net>
Subject: RE: Establishing a School Building Committee

Hello all: I wanted to support, from the Moderator’s view, Jess’s and the SC’s ‘desire to establish a new SBC as soon as reasonably possible.’ Time to go forward. I’m interested in connecting individually with anyone/all on this distribution list -- and/or together in an upcoming meeting. Please let me know thoughts about best next steps. I have reached out to the Warrant Committee as they identify the existing member to serve.

Scott

Scott McDermott

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From: Jessica Reilly <jreilly@email.medfield.net>
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2022 4:27 PM
To: Gus Murby - Lexington Leadership <gmurby@lexlead.com>; Scott McDermott <scott@nhpllc.com>; Michael Quinlan <mikequinlan.is@gmail.com>
Cc: Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke <amosheabrooke@email.medfield.net>; Jeff Marsden <jmarsden@email.medfield.net>; Kristine Trierweiler <ktrierweiler@medfield.net>
Subject: Establishing a School Building Committee

Hello All-

At the School Committee meeting on Thursday we appointed Anna Mae to act as the SC's liaison with the BOS, Town Moderator and PPBC as we begin looking at forming the School Building Committee. She has stated that she will not be on the SBC, but that she will be happy to work together with the rest of you to establish dates and benchmarks, nominating procedures, including a uniform interest and nomination form to make sure that all potential members can be evaluated for the qualities they may bring to the SBC regardless of the "ownership" of the nomination.

She will reach out to you, but I wanted to make you aware of the School Committee's desire to establish a new SBC as soon as is reasonably possible.

Thank you,

Jess

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Jessica Reilly, MSW

Chair

Medfield School Committee

Medfield Public Schools

She, Her, Hers

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