

Minutes

Present: Suresh Bhatia; Nancy McJennett (Chair); Tim Hult (Vice-Chair); Arthur Dulong; Ken Hoffman; Karen Sabatino; Judy Terry; Len Wetherbee; Jerry Wedge

Others Present: Ginny Lamere; Peter Lukacic; Hugh Lauer; Alex Pitkin; Phil Poinelli; Joel Seeley

I. CALL TO ORDER AND GREETING

The meeting was called to order by Nancy McJennett at 6:10PM. In addition to the agenda items, SMMA will make conceptual design presentations.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the last meeting of 3/15/05 were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Judy Terry and seconded by Len Wetherbee. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. LESSONS FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL TOURS

- a. Nancy McJennett made reference to the tour comments that were previously distributed and asked for further input. Discussion ensued regarding tours. Art Dulong expressed his thoughts on positive and negatives of both Hudson and Lincoln/Sudbury. Len Wetherbee expressed his concerns on safety, indicating that Hudson put more thought into safety issues. Hugh Lauer mentioned Hudson's few exit doors that all led to a common courtyard visible by the main office, whereas Lincoln Sudbury had almost a dozen doors on all sides of the building.
- b. Art Dulong indicated that he received a letter from NEASC regarding facilities, a copy of which had been sent to School Committee members also. He believes it is something that SMMA and the Feasibility Committee should view, however, he decided to wait until the School Committee has viewed the letter and then distribute to this committee.

IV. SMMA Presentation

- a. Joel Seeley opened the presentation of SMMA's conceptual designs, indicating that we will view renovation only, renovation/addition, and new construction options.
 - i. Phil Poinelli reviewed renovation only first. The committee was shown diagrams of the building indicating square footage shortfall for each area (science labs, sped, etc.). Discussion ensued over the concepts behind classroom utilization rates and the facts behind it to present to the community to show that the high

utilization rate is unacceptable. This option would not solve space problems and would result in a serious loss of programs, inability to honor all student requests for enrollment in certain classes, and the community would still end up with a building that didn't meet the student needs. The committee agreed that the renovation only presentation is really not an option, however, it is an exercise showing that the committee reviewed all options available. SMMA will provide a full cost estimate including temporary space needs.

- ii. Alex Pitkin presented the addition/renovation option. Diagrams were displayed showing the addition of a gymnasium (with the possibility of keeping the older two gyms), renovation of administrative space providing a 2nd floor library, and addition of an auditorium wing. Discussion ensued over parking and flow of traffic around this design. Len Wetherbee mentioned the Thoreau and Walden Street intersection and the safety aspect, as well as the possibility of redoing this intersection. There was discussion over various design possibilities and utilization of courtyard space. Alex Pitkin noted that the current auditorium cannot be renovated for acoustic and fly space reasons.
- iii. Phil Poinelli asked the committee for some feedback on the proposed design concepts including the new auditorium, proposed new gym, etc. It was agreed that the plan should include a new auditorium. Phil Poinelli asked if a new gym and the older two gyms should be part of the scheme. The school could use the older gyms as the community use gym. Discussion over the possibility of a field house ensued. Art Dulong expressed his thoughts that a field house would benefit not only the school but the community as well. Tim Hult relayed feedback that he has received indicating that a field house is seen as excessive.
- iv. Phil Poinelli brought up the library. Discussion ensued over the amount of space needed. The library needs to be addressed – does the committee feel it should be new or renovated where it is?
- v. A motion was made by Ken Hoffman and seconded by Art Dulong to provide for: a new gymnasium with the option to provide a new field house; a new auditorium; new administrative offices; and a new library. The motion was unanimously approved.
- vi. Peter Lukacic reviewed new construction options, displaying some diagrams with footprints of a new building and indicating new field space. Len Wetherbee asked if the bus barn was of concern. Art Dulong indicated it wasn't to him but it may to other members of this committee not present. The committee can also consider the multi-story aspect.
- vii. Joel Seeley informed the committee that based on the information gathered tonight, they will come back with a couple of options for addition/renovation, one renovation only option, and some new construction options. The committee should be able to apply the designs to the goals and see what makes the most sense to propose to the School Committee. Items to consider: fulfillment of program, cost, time frame.
- viii. Joel Seeley handed out a Conceptual Options Summary.
- ix. Joel Seeley asked for a couple of things from the committee:

1. Art Dulong will provide a space utilization summary.
 2. Programs that cannot be utilized because of lack of space. (can be provided from Chuck Brown)
 3. A daily use schedule (also from Chuck Brown)
 4. Data suggesting that students returned based on the new school. However, Phil Poinelli recalled that Lincoln Sudbury said they did not see that happen.
- x. Tim Hult asked if we would get more conceptual designs before we come up with a preferred option, or just cost estimates. Joel Seeley said we would not see specific designs until we came up with the preferred option.

V. NEXT MEETING

- a. The next meetings are scheduled for May 5th at 6:00PM and May 17th at 6:00PM. Check with all committee members as the architects cannot meet on May 3rd due to a prior engagement.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

- a. A motion was made by Ken Hoffman and seconded by Len Wetherbee to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Comeau
Approved: May 5, 2005