

Meeting Minutes: November 19, 2009 – School Committee Room

Members Present: R. Barkett, C. Swanson, G. Bruns, L. Berte, M. Wrabel, R. Joyal, R. Hirsch, P. Dunkerley, R. Bistran, P. Pasterczyk, R. Crosbie, P. Greenberg.

Absent: M. Sirulnik, D. Judge, J. Hart

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Barkett at 6:40pm

Mr. Barkett congratulated the Committee on the approval by the MSBA on 11/18/09 to move into the Schematic Design phase.

Ms. Swanson further updated the Committee on the MSBA Board meeting. She stated that The Board is on target with their revenue projections and explained that the MSBA is not impacted by the Governor's 9(c) cuts. The Board targeted \$600M and are currently at \$570M. Essentially, all projects in the pipeline are funded.

The MSBA has revived 68 *new* SOIs this year. The '07 and '08 SOIs are still in line, as well as now the 68 additional received this year. The projects/needs are increasing; therefore, there is going to be less money to spread around.

The Hanover project (Callahan Constr.) has a potential Cease & Desist Order on the project due to fraudulent bidding.

The Board is reconvening to review the size of science labs. They have received a lot of pushback regarding the current size of 1,200 sq. ft. They need to be bigger.

There are a number of projects moving into feasibility Study and Schematic Design.

Ms. Mary Piccetti brought the Longmeadow project forward to the Board. There were a number of questions from Board members: why is the building shaped the way it is? Mr. Cahill stated that a 2 ½ year project is much more fiscally responsible. The project was then moved to vote and passed unanimously.

There were a number of caveats:

1. 47.84% reimbursement
2. \$0/reimbursement for the 1971 wing renovation
3. We must meet the 185,000 sq. ft. guideline for the building
4. No renovation points will be applied to construction
5. We must make sure that there are expansion opportunities involved in the Project Scope & Budget

Mr. Barkett reported on the Monday, 11/16/09 meeting with the MSBA. In attendance were: Mr. Barkett, Ms. Swanson, Ms. Hart, Mr. Berte, Ms. Crosbie, representatives from the Office of Michael Rosenfeld, Messrs. Luxenberg and Mr. Luskin of JLA, as well as a representative from Sen. Candaras' office. On Friday, the MSBA sent a letter requesting additional information related to the Feasibility Study report and expressed their intent to take Longmeadow off the Board Agenda for Wednesday's meeting. Mr. Barkett and Ms. Swanson, as Co-Chairs of the Committee, were concerned about the impact a delay in the Board vote would have on the overall project, particularly the fact that our current Superintendent is retiring in June. State Representative Ashe, State Senator Candaras and Representative Richard Neal were contacted and all made calls to the MSBA on behalf of the Longmeadow project.

The Committee expressed their sincere gratitude for the support of our State Representative, State Senator and Representative Neal in this endeavor.

Mr. Barkett stated that he recently received word that Rep. Neal would be in the area on Friday and he has offered to do a press conference for the Longmeadow project. The Committee fully supported this and a number of members said they would be available to attend.

**Discussion of additional Alternates to the SBC:**

Mr. Barkett led a discussion regarding the addition of two (2) more Alternates to the Committee. He stated that the MSBA allows addition of Alternates, as there is no dramatic alteration to the composition of the Committee. At this point, it would be extremely valuable to have a few additional hands "on-deck", as people are frequently absent due to family/work commitments.

Mr. Pasterczyk moved, seconded by Mr. Wrable, that the Committee add two (2) new Alternates to the SBC. The motion passed unanimously.

A few names of potential additional Alternates were discussed, as well as the possibility of reviewing the applications of residents who applied to the Committee back in June 2007 when it was initially formed. It was unclear whether or not the Committee needs to post the "vacancies" and have the Select Board and School Committee need to reconvene and interview applicants for appointment. Mr. Barkett will work with JLA on these questions.

**December 10, 2009 SBC Meeting Invitation:**

Ms. Swanson led a discussion regarding the 12/10/09 SBC meeting invitation drafted by Ms. Bruns for the Committee's review. This is an effort to get volunteers involved in the various working groups.

Ms. Swanson stated that there need to be clear expectations for people. For example, attendance is mandatory. There are various types of volunteers: "Sprinters" (people who want to work through Town Meeting) and/or "Long-Distance" (people who will see the building through construction).

The Committee offered a number of revisions to the draft invitation, as well as to the composition of the working groups. It was decided that Ms. Bruns would craft a press release to solicit volunteers to help with the Communications working group. The press release will be submitted to the following outlets:

- Longmeadow News
- Reminder
- LCTV announcement
- Select Board announcement
- School Committee announcement
- Finance Committee announcement

The Committee will also email an announcement out to friends in the community.

The following are the established working groups:

- Communications (SBC & community volunteers)
  - PTO/PAC/Senior liaison
  - Website
  - Public Forums
  - Press releases – news, print, web
  - FAQs
  - Marketing
- Private Donors (SBC)
- Technical Review (SBC)
- Educational Specifications Review (SBC)
- Finance (SBC)

Ms. Crosbie asked how the working groups will work with the full SBC? She emphasized her concern that decisions still need to be made by the SBC, not the working group(s). She suggested that, going forward, the working groups provide reports at each SBC meeting to discuss actions and issues. The notes from these working group meetings should be compiled into the minutes from the full SBC meeting.

Ms. Crosbie suggested that she contact the Ethic Commission and request for them to give a presentation to all of the Elected and Appointed Boards of the Town of Longmeadow. Given the recent revisions to the ethics laws and the various Ballot Question Committee(s) that may be forming in relation to the High School project, it is important that these individuals are clear on their responsibilities in their respective roles.

### **Separate Town Meeting Vote & Election:**

Mr. Barkett and Ms Swanson led a discussion regarding the possibility of holding a Special Town Meeting and Special Election for the High School project separate from the Annual Town Meeting.

Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2009 per fall Town Meeting change. The ballot is on June 8, 2009.

Ms. Bruns moved, seconded by Mr. Dunkerly, that the SBC formally request that the Select Board hold a Special Town Meeting on April 13, 2009 and a Special Election on April 27, 2009 for the Longmeadow High School building project. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. Joyal moved, seconded by Mr. Barkett, to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2009 Regular SBC meeting. The motion passed 11-0-2 with Mr. Wrable and Mr. Hirsch abstaining.

Ms. Bruns moved, seconded by Mr. Pasterczyk, to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2009 Regular SBC meeting, as amended. The motion passed 12-0-1 with Ms. Bruns abstaining.

Mr. Greenberg moved, seconded by Mr. Hirsch, to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2009 Executive Session SBC meeting, as amended. The motion passed 10-0-3 with Ms. Bruns, Ms. Crosbie and Mr. Wrable abstaining.

Mr. Wrable moved, seconded by Mr. Hirsch, that the SBC approve the October 2009 JLA invoice in the amount of \$17,000.00. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:09 pm Mr. Greenberg moved, seconded by Mr. Barkett, to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the negotiation of a lease of property. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Ms. Bruns, Ms. Swanson, Mr. Barkett, Mr. Greenberg, Ms. Crosbie, Mr. Berte, Mr. Wrabel, Mr. Joyal, Mr. Hirsch, Mr. Dunkerley, Mr. Bistran, Mr. Pasterczyk. Nays: None.