

LONGMEADOW SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

Longmeadow•Massachusetts•01106



Meeting Minutes

September 30, 2009

Approved on January 20, 2010

Present: Mr. Robert Barkett, Co-Chair and Select Board Chair; Ms. Christine Swanson, Co-Chair and School Committee Chair; Ms. Robin Crosbie, Town Manager; Ms. E. Jahn Hart, Superintendent; Mr. Michael Wrabel, DPW Director; Mr. Lawrence Berte, Principal; Paul Dunkerley, Longmeadow High School Administrator; Mr. Ronald Hirsch, retired Longmeadow High School Teacher (alternate); Mr. Paul Pasterczyk, Town Finance Director; Mr. Peter Greenberg, Finance Committee; Mr. Mark Sirulnik, Community Member; Mr. Roland Joyal, Community Member; Ms. Danielle Judge, Community Member; Mr. Richard Bistran, Community Member (alternate); Jeff Luxenberg, Joslin Lesser; Noah Luskin, Joslin Lesser; Jeanne Roberts, OMR; Chuck Koehler, OMR.

A public forum was held at 6:00 p.m. in the LHS Cafeteria. The forum and meeting were taped and aired by LCTV. The web video of the event is available for viewing on the SBC web site:
<http://www.longmeadow.org/sbc/index.htm>

Slides of the Power Point presentation from the September 30th forum are also available on the SBC web site.

The SBC responded to questions from the audience and adjourned the forum after all audience members had had an opportunity to address the committee. The public forum adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

The SBC Meeting commenced immediately after the public forum.

Jeff Luxenberg (Joslin Lesser) reviewed the cost estimates and backup data for the three options that were presented (1B, 2A1, and 2B). He explained the preliminary analysis of reimbursement by MSBA and estimates of average taxpayer costs for each option as well as the estimated effect on the tax rate.

SBC members asked questions about the cost estimates and backup data.

There were some questions about the preliminary design of Option 2B. Jeanne Roberts from OMR (architects) assured the committee that they are only in conceptual design right now and they will be meeting with teachers and other stakeholders during the Schematic Design Phase.

Mr. Pasterczyk clarified that the statute allows for a 25-year bond on construction, not 30 years, as some have stated.

There was discussion about the relative costs of renovating the 1970's wing vs. constructing a new facility that would not be eligible for reimbursement by MSBA to house district offices, the swimming pool and locker rooms, and additional space for LCTV offices, plus physical education and business/technology teaching use. It was noted that the teaching spaces, including the pool, must be near Longmeadow High School and also that the cost of renovating the current spaces rather than building new would be less costly.

Multiple SBC members spoke in favor of Option 2B as the preferred option. Mr. Mark Sirulnik spoke in favor of Option 2A1, as a less costly renovation option vs. Option 2B, which is partial renovation and new construction of 185,000 sq. ft.

Mr. Barkett noted the cost differential between Option 2A1 and 2B and the resulting difference in tax payer costs. Mr. Barkett stated support for Option 2B, and also stated the importance of thoroughly explaining the costs and benefits to the Town when they have opportunities to approve funding the project.

Gwen Bruns moved, seconded by Peter Greenberg to approve Option 2B as the preferred option to be submitted to MSBA. The motion was approved by all of the members, except Mark Sirulnik, who voted against Option 2B.

Christine Swanson moved to approve invoices in the amount of \$29,250 for work completed by OMR, architects. Paul Pasterczyk, seconded the motion, and added that he had received additional invoices related to the project in the amount of \$112.75. The motion was amended to approve invoices in the amount of \$29,362.75. The motion was approved unanimously.

Jeff Luxenberg mentioned the possibility of an informal meeting with MSBA to discuss progress on the project on Friday, October 2nd.

The Feasibility Study will be submitted to MSBA by October 9, 2009. It is hoped that the Longmeadow project will be approved by the MSBA Board at their November 18th meeting to move forward to the Schematic Design phase. Jeff explained the tentative timelines up until vote by Longmeadow Town Meeting and Election regarding a debt exclusion to fund the project.

Next SBC meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on October 9, 2009.

Mr. Barkett announced that an SBC meeting for Oct 2nd had been posted if needed. However, it was determined that the Oct 2nd meeting will not be needed; therefore, it will be canceled.

Richard Bistran moved to adjourn, Roland Joyal seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.