

High School Building Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting date & place: 7 pm, July 17, 2017, Pentucket High School Cafeteria

Members Present: Kim Jackson, Jeff Mulqueen, Elisa Grammer, Denise Dembkoski, Joseph Torrisi, Greg Labrecque, Bill Daley, Jonathan Seymour, Wayne Adams, Andy Murphy, Carol McLeod, Glenn Kemper. **Members not present:** Bill O’Neil, Joel Breen, Dena Trotta, Emily Dwyer, Greg Hadden, Laura Costigan, Mark Tocci, Stephanie Seeley, Michael Stevens.

Owner’s Project Manager: Jon Lemieux, Vertex

Public present: None.

Minutes

Committee Chairman Seymour presented draft minutes of the School Building Committee’s June 28, 2017 meeting. Superintendent Mulqueen pointed out that he represents the entire school district—not specifically the town of Groveland in which he resides. Accordingly, he recommended that the minutes’ reference to his residence be deleted from his identification as a member of the three-member team representing Pentucket at the upcoming Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) meetings to select a designer for the new building. *The Committee agreed to this revision and approved the revised draft minutes unanimously, except that Mr. Murphy and Ms. McLeod, not present, abstained.*

Review of Designer Proposals

Mr. Seymour explained that the Committee’s task at this meeting is to select three top choices among the six designers offering submissions. MSBA does *not* want a Committee vote, but rather recommendations of the group.

Mr. Lemieux described the makeup of the volunteers comprising the MSBA’s designer selection board and the process generally used. The three representatives from Pentucket will advise this board, but the board can choose a designer that Pentucket does not prefer. Mr. Kemper noted that Pentucket’s tax dollars are at stake here, although a tempering factor is the half of the funding coming through MSBA.

Mr. Seymour began the discussion of the designers’ proposals, stressing the value of firms that show true understanding of the Pentucket community. An example is Dore & Whittier, which has strong local ties. He also noted that Mount Vernon has comparable projects.

Mr. Kemper agreed that having a stake in the community is very important. He called on references not specifically named in the designer proposals. He was impressed with Dore & Whittier and Flansburgh. He further observed that a firm should have the capacity to do the work but be small enough to provide attentive service.

Ms. Grammer was impressed with Dore & Whittier for the reasons given earlier and for their presentation on green building. She questioned Lavalley's familiarity with Pentucket in view of its statement that a final decision had been to include "all grades" in the new school.

Mr. Murphy reviewed the degree of effort and interest shown in various designer proposals. He concluded that Flansburgh was solid and Dore & Whittier showed strong knowledge of the community.

Mr. Labrecque largely agreed with the other comments, finding Tappe and Flansburgh strong contenders for similar reasons. He expressed concern that some proposals' suggestions concerning siting were out of synch with Pentucket preferences and/or the realities Pentucket faces.

Mr. Adams noted the importance of design attractiveness in terms of taxpayer support. He observed that Mount Vernon did a good job in Amesbury and that he has had good experiences with them.

Superintendent Mulqueen also viewed the proposals of Dore & Whitney, Tappe, and Flansburgh as the strongest, because of understanding of the school community's needs and ability to perform the work.

The discussion generally turned to the design process, which will likely depart from the initial ideas in the designers' proposals. The school community, the School Building Committee and other stakeholders will have extensive input, so the design will evolve.

The Committee generally agreed that 1) Dore & Whitney, 2) Tappe, and 3) Flansburgh were the top choices, in that order but with very high consensus support for each.

At tomorrow's meeting with the MSBA designer selection board, Superintendent Mulqueen will explain the three top choices and the reasons the Pentucket School Building Committee supports them.

Next Steps

Selection of the designer should occur by next Tuesday. At that point contract negotiations will begin and MSBA approval will be required for the contractual arrangements. The designer will develop a timeline, and active design work will likely take place in September.

Mr. Seymour stated that he will attend the two MSBA meetings concerning designer selection and will send this Committee an email summarizing those discussions.

Adjournment

7:08 pm

Meeting Documents

- 1) Draft minutes of June 28, 2017 meeting
- 2) Six designer proposals

Respectfully submitted,

Elisa Grammer
School Building Committee Secretary