

WESTWOOD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

April 30, 2015

7:00 p.m.

Present:

Carol Lewis, Chairperson
Josepha A. Jowdy, Vice Chairperson
Brian T. Kelly, Clerk
John J. O'Brien, Committee Member
Charles Donahue, Committee Member

John Antonucci, Superintendent
Allison Borchers, Interim Assistant Superintendent
Abby Hanscom, Director of Student Services
Heath Petracca, Director of Finance and Business

Meeting Called to Order at: 7:05 p.m. by Carol Lewis

Discussion Item:

Space and Capital Needs Study/Elementary School Consolidation

Dr. Antonucci introduced Ed Frenette and Jennifer Soucy from SMMA (Symmes Maini & McKee Associates) who discussed the Capital Needs Study – Master Plan Options. Mr. Frenette presented six scenarios:

Option A-1: Status Quo

Elementary Schools

- Major renovations of existing buildings and infrastructure required at Deerfield, Sheehan and Paul Hanlon
- Potential for extensive hazardous materials abatement
- Infrastructure upgrades will trigger full compliance with MAAS-Accessibility codes
- Only minor system upgrades required at Downey and Martha Jones

Thurston Middle School

- Major renovations of existing building systems and infrastructure required
- Potential for extensive hazardous materials abatement
- Infrastructure upgrades will trigger full compliance with MAAS-Accessibility codes

Option B-1: Satisfy Educational Programs

Elementary Schools

- Existing spaces currently > 25% undersized
- Major renovations including all scope from Option A-1
- Additions and interior renovations as required to support program needs
- Minor interior fit-up at Downey

Thurston Middle School

- Major renovations of existing building systems and infrastructure required
- Infrastructure upgrades will trigger full MAAB compliance
- Interior fit-up renovations to accommodate educational program needs

Option B-3: Satisfy Educational Programs

Elementary Schools

- Create “early childhood” school at Hanlon for grades PK and K; Convert other four elementary schools to grades 1-5.
- Redistricting required
- Major renovations including all scope from Option A-1
- Additions and interior renovations as required to support program needs

Option C-1a: Consolidate

- Necessary code and system upgrades, plus upgrades, renovations, and/or additions:
- Consolidate to four elementary schools
- Close Deerfield
- Sheehan – new building
- Paul Hanlon – major renovations/additions
- Martha Jones – minor system upgrades
- Downey – minor system upgrades and minor interior fit-ups
- Thurston – major renovations/additions

Option C-1d: Consolidate

- Necessary code and system upgrades, plus upgrades, renovations, and/or additions:
- Consolidate to three elementary schools.
- Close Deerfield
- Close Sheehan
- New building – Paul Hanlon
- Minor upgrades – Martha Jones
- Minor upgrades and fit-ups – Downey
- Major renovation – Thurston

Option C-1e: Consolidate

- Necessary code and system upgrades, plus upgrades, renovations, and/or additions:
- Consolidate to three elementary schools.
- Redistricting for parity
- Close Deerfield
- Close Sheehan
- New building – Paul Hanlon
- Minor upgrades – add 3 classes – Martha Jones
- Minor upgrades – add 4 classes – Downey
- Major renovation - Thurston

The School Committee members shared their thoughts and concerns with SMMA. What will happen to the closed buildings? How will it be funded? Can we just fix the 5 we have? Are we pursuing the right project at this time.

Dr.. Antonucci said that reimbursement is possible for some of the projects – state minimum he believes is 31%. Would need to go through Statement of Interest (SOI) process. We would take Master Plan to MSBA and then we would know more about reimbursement.

Dr. Antonucci did not know what we would do with the buildings that close. Mr. Frenette said that we would need to work out a deal with the Town.

Mr. O'Brien asked about the costs and how much were attributable to buildings being in disrepair. Mr. Antonucci said none of the buildings were in "disrepair". Mr. Frenette said they were just coming to the end of their useful lives.

Dr. Antonucci said the SOI process is on an annual cycle. Next cycle begins next January, and that if we decided to enter that process, that we had a lot of work to do with town officials, other town boards, etc to try to get consensus about the project.

A discussion was had about the timeline. Doing one of the major projects would take about six years, start to finish.

Adjourn: Mr. Kelly made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. Mrs. Jowdy seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.