

PROGRESS ON MOUNTVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

June 26, 2012

The Mountview School Building Committee continues to make progress on studying the feasibility of various alternatives for updating the school building. This week's meeting included:

- Before September 27, 2012, the Committee needs to file a Preferred Schematic Report (PSR) with the Mass School Building Authority (MSBA) recommending what project the town wants to pursue. This means we have to weigh and evaluate a wide range of options, including renovations/additions and new buildings, different sites, sizes, and features before then, so there are many important decisions to be made in the next few weeks.
- Prior to today, the PSR filing date was August 12, which the committee felt was too aggressive and did not allow for adequate review and public input, so we petitioned the MSBA for a later filing date, which was granted. This revision will not change the date of expected final MSBA approval in March 2013.
- The Designer was asked to study and prepare cost estimates for 6 different scenarios.
 - 1 - Do nothing. This is the base case required by the State for comparison purposes. It defines the advantages and disadvantages of doing nothing to the building.
 - 2 - Minimum renovations - Do nothing except fix things that are broken or non-functional.
 - 3 - Medium renovations - Fix broken things and make some improvements to basic infrastructure (heating, roof, windows, etc) of the school.
 - 4- Heavy renovations and addition - Extensive renovation, moving walls, redesigning spaces and adding an addition. Also includes cost of relocating students during construction and impact on educational quality during project.
 - 5 - Build a new school on the existing Mountview site.
 - 6 - Build a new school on a parcel of town-owned land between Malden Street and Bullard Street, adjacent to the Mayo School property.
- Scheduled a joint meeting with the Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen and Holden School Committee representatives at Mountview School at 6PM on Tuesday, July 17. The Building Committee will provide tours of the building at 5PM to anyone interested, including the public. At the 6PM meeting the Committee will make a presentation on the process followed so far, the current status and what needs to be done before the filing date. Then there will be discussion among the 4 groups about the project so that the FinCom, BOS and School Committee can voice their opinions and get their questions answered. The meeting is open to the public and all interested citizens are encouraged to attend. There will be a public comment period at the beginning of the meeting.

- The hazardous materials study has been completed on the existing building. The cost to remediate the identified hazmats will exceed \$1,000,000 if the building is demolished, and will be somewhat less than that if the building is renovated. The extent to which the state will reimburse for these costs is being studied.

- The Wachusett School District and the Designer have studied the State guidelines and have decided on an initial space allocation that shows how many rooms of each type that the building should have to meet the educational standards of the District. The proposal envisions a pod design with classrooms located around a common space, similar to that used at the Mayo and Davis Hill Schools and which the staff of those schools finds very beneficial.

- Decided to meet weekly in July to hear updates as the Designer performs its reviews. The meeting schedule for July is

7/10 - Meet with OPM and Designer to discuss preliminary study results

7/17 - Joint meeting with BOS, FinCom and Holden School Com reps at Mountview

7/23 - Meet with the School Committee to present a status report on the project. This meeting is at the High School.

7/24 - Meet with OPM and Designer to discuss preliminary study results

7/31 - Meet with OPM and Designer to discuss preliminary study results

There may be additional meetings as needed. All meetings are held at 6PM at the Light Department (except as noted), are posted and are open to the public.

For additional information, contact Chairman Paul Challenger at (774) 364-2364 or Vice Chairman David White at (508) 450-3920.