

The Facilities Subcommittee met on Thursday, March 28, 2024, in the Virtual Zoom Meeting. Present were Mike Judge, Jennifer Cullum, Sara Ahern, Chris Dwelley, Derek Osterman, and Kevin Maxim.

Mr. Judge called the meeting to order at 8:00AM.

Approve Meeting Minutes

- Motion by Ms. Cullum, seconded by Dr. Ahern, and the Committee voted, unanimously, to approve the Meeting Minutes of February 29, 2024.

Facilities and Space Issues

- Mr. Judge stated the Committee is going to speak about space needs this meeting.
- Dr. Ahern stated the district did an enrollment forecast and the projection is level over the next decade. There is small group instruction to meet the needs of special needs and English language learners, as well as more staff offices. There are space constraints in grades K-5. The 4-5 building is better, but there is not additional capacity. There is more space at BIS. Looking at BHS numerically, it appears there is room there for better utilization. There are portables coming in at Hyannis West and BCIS. BWB is the school with the greatest concern at this point. The district has 17 ECELC students with increased special education needs that will be entering kindergarten. This group has been put together to speak about the options.
- Mr. Maxim stated the top four schools that needs the most maintenance per square foot are the four oldest schools. He stated when he drops his daughter off at school in Bourne, it is a brand new school designed with current needs in mind for 2020's and not the schools of the 1950's.
- Ms. Cullum stated this Committee could inform those decisions based on budgeting decisions. The district is not going to be able to repair and maintain the current schools on the schools allotted budget.
- Mr. Judge stated the issue the district is running into is the need for smaller classrooms and having to use portable dividers in the larger classrooms.
- Ms. Cullum would like to take an organized approach to figure out where the most needs are and what is most costly. She would like to look at the historic schools that are the oldest buildings that would make a statement in the community like the Innovation school. There needs to be a timeline that would mark out what points to hit and what decisions need to be made in order to advise the School Committee.
- Mr. Osterman stated a new school with MSBA would be approximately 7 years away if the district started in 2025.
- Ms. Cullum stated that planning has to start now.
- Mr. Judge stated a school in 8 years does not help BWB with their problems now. There are teachers who are teaching in the cafeteria or a classroom with divided into four classrooms. There are more immediate problems that needs to be addressed. He is not saying that this group should not plan for the long term because the process needs to be started. What does this Subcommittee need to do in order to be ready for the MSBA process next spring?
- Dr. Ahern stated this group would need to figure out what project makes the most sense. Mr. Osterman can help guide this group with the series of approvals that would need to be signed off on the application for the core program. Based on those decisions, the Committee can focus on what capital the School asks for in the Fall.
- Mr. Osterman stated the district needs to decide where the needs are and where the district would like to end up. More funding is needed for maintenance. The district needs to get buy in from the community to get support for what is needed. He can guide the district with the application process. A starting point would be to decided where the district wants to be.
- Mr. Judge asked, considering the space needs and maintenance, what building(s) needs replacing.
- Mr. Osterman stated that in just looking at the data, it would be at the elementary level. The critical piece is that a severe problem has been identified. The state will ask the district how it might be solved with repairs or a new building. They want investments to last 50+ years. It might be better to renovate to a like new condition, but more likely it would be a new build.
- The Committee discussed the elementary schools having the biggest need.
- Mr. Maxim stated Centerville is the worst building. He would take the three schools in Hyannis and combine them to make a nice elementary school. He would create a large addition to West Villages.
- Dr. Ahern clarified the three Hyannis schools as Hyannis West, BCIS, and Centerville. Mr. Maxim stated yes.

- Mr. Maxim stated the old schools could be turned into 55+ housing. That is what they are doing in Bourne and Sandwich.
- Ms. Cullum agreed this would be a good way to go to get the community buy in. She has concerns about the high school and the culture there due to the need for new locker rooms and a band room.
- Ms. Osterman stated if the most urgent need is fixing the elementary level, then perhaps the smaller capital project pivots to the high school.
- Mr. Judge asked when would the district start the Friends of Barnstable Education and the political campaign for an override. Mr. Osterman stated it is too early to start. Once the district has traction and is in the program, then those programs can start.
- Ms. Cullum stated Barnstable has just started a 30 year, \$1 billion sewer project. That sewer project is going to go for a debt exclusion at some point. She wants to be mindful of that project. The conversation and relationship with the taxpayers should start now.
- Mr. Osterman stated he would put together a sample schedule based on regulatory deadlines and processes if the district were to submit an application for the core program.
- Mr. Cullum stated it might be good for Mr. Dwelley to check in with Mark Milne about the town's plans.
- Mr. Maxim stated once the district knows how much the state is going to reimburse for the cost of the new school, that can be used as a marketing strategy. It will be tough for the taxpayers to say no if the state is going to reimburse 60% of the cost.

Next Steps

- Mr. Judge stated for the next meeting Mr. Osterman will provide the Committee with the long term schedule. At the next meeting, the group will talk about the short-term and the mid-term plans.

Future Meeting Dates

- The next meeting will be on April 25 at 8:00AM.

Motion by Ms. Cullum, seconded by Dr. Ahern, and the Committee voted, unanimously, to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:59AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Kruczek
Executive Assistant