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## **FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

The School Committees believe that any educational program is influenced greatly by the environment in which it functions. The development of a quality educational program and facilities that help to implement the program must go hand in hand.

Therefore, it is the Committees' goal to provide the facilities needed for the number of students in the Schools, and to provide the kind of facilities that will best support and accommodate the educational program. To best use local resources, it is the Committee's intent, wherever possible, to partner with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

In planning facilities, the Committees recognize that capital outlay funds are limited, and that priorities must be established to make the best use of resources. The Committees' first objective is to develop a plan that eliminates overcrowding and minimizes the need for extended day programs and double sessions. Whenever possible, the cultural as well as educational needs of the community are considered in planning facility expansions.

Architects retained by the Committees are expected to plan for simplicity of design; sound economics, including low long-range maintenance costs, efficiency in energy needs, low insurance rates; high educational use; and flexibility.

### LEGAL REF.:

M.G.L. 70B  
963 CMR 2.00

FIRST READING: January 28, 2025

SECOND READING: April 1, 2025

ADOPTED: April 1, 2025

SOURCE: Dover Sherborn Joint Committee

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## **FACILITIES PLANNING**

### School Building Committee

The Joint School Committees will create a school building committee for specific building projects for the schools of each town. These committees act as the administrative authority for the projects, subject to approval of various actions by a School Committee and town.

The school building committee has the following responsibilities:

1. To study and make recommendations to the town with respect to school building needs.
2. To review thoroughly with the Superintendent and the School Committee the educational requirements in relation to school buildings.
3. To review previous studies and initiate needed studies with or without consultative assistance.
4. To employ the services of architects and cost estimators and such other professional assistance as it may deem necessary.

### Staff Planning

Arrangements will be made by the Superintendent, working through Principals, for the school staff to contribute in the planning of new school buildings. Teachers will be given the opportunity to submit suggestions for possible inclusion in the educational specifications.

LEGAL REFS.:       M.G.L. 70B  
                          Massachusetts School Building Authority, Chapter 208 of the Acts of 2004,  
                          963 CMR 2.00  
                          M.G.L. 71:16

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## **RETIREMENT OF FACILITIES**

When a school building becomes inadequate by virtue of age, condition, size of site, or other overriding limitations, and cannot reasonably and economically be brought up to the current educational standards, or becomes unnecessary because of lack of need, the building should be considered for a comprehensive closing study. The Superintendent will recommend to the School Committees which facilities appear to justify further analysis.

The School Committees may seek both professional advice and the advice of the community in making its recommendations as to the retirement of any school facility. This will permit the public, which originally acquired the property, to benefit from its recycling or retirement.

A closing study will include direct involvement by those neighborhoods considered in the study and will be concerned with all or some of the following factors:

1. Age and current physical condition of the facilities, its operating systems, and program facilities
2. Adequacy of site, location, access, surrounding development, traffic patterns, and other environmental conditions
3. Reassignment of students, including alternative plans according to Committee policy
4. Transportation factors, including numbers of students bused, time, distance, and safety
5. Alternative uses of the building
6. Cost/Savings
  - a. Personnel
  - b. Plant Operation
  - c. Transportation
  - d. Capital Investment
  - e. Alternative Use
7. Continuity of instructional and community programs

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:16

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## **NAMING NEW FACILITIES**

Naming a school facility is an important matter that deserves thoughtful attention. Personal prejudice or favoritism, political pressure, or temporary popularity should not be an influence in choosing a name for a school, a portion of a school, or a portion of school grounds. Whenever possible, the wishes of the community, including parents/guardians and students, should be considered in naming school facilities.

The School Committee has the authority to approve the naming and renaming of buildings, structures, and facilities located on school property. The School Committee also has the authority to name subsections of existing structures or facilities, such as classrooms, auditoriums, and gymnasiums.

Names and/or wording associated with school facilities shall be consistent with school district policies and promote messages aligned with the mission, vision and goals of the school district. To the extent possible, names and/or wording should be designed not to restrict the use of a space or inhibit changing the function of the space should that become necessary in the future.

When the opportunity to name or dedicate a new school or school related property, structure or facility is forthcoming, an orderly procedure will be communicated at the next available School Committee meeting. The Committee's agendas should clearly reflect the intent to consider, review, and vote on naming opportunities.

Submission of a name for a school space may be made by any resident or by the Superintendent, in writing, and should be made to the School Committee Chair. If a name is being initiated at the local school level, the Principal must take reasonable steps to include the School Council and PTA/PTO in the nomination of the name before submission to the School Committee.

The written request should specify the intent of the requestor and the reasons why this particular name would fit the facility. It should offer appropriate background information on the person or organization after which the facility will be named. An offer of a financial contribution to the School District may accompany the naming request, but the School Committee is not obligated to accept or reject a name based upon financial considerations alone. Philanthropic contributions in support of the School District are encouraged by the School Committee. The School Committee may acknowledge generous donors by designating appropriate spaces within the School District's facilities consistent with the level of financial commitment.

Following the submission of a naming request, the School Committee Chair will specify a consideration period that allows for public comment, following which the Committee will deliberate and vote on the name.

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## **MEMORIALS**

The School Committee recognizes that the death of a student, member of the staff, or prominent community member is deeply felt by the school community. As places designed primarily to support learning, school sites should not serve as the main venue for permanent memorials.

Permanent memorials within the schools shall be limited in form to perpetual awards or scholarships.

Any permanent memorials in existence before the adoption of this policy can only be removed by a vote of the School Committee.