The Facilities Subcommittee met on Monday, May 18, 2026, in a Virtual Zoom Meeting. Present were Jennifer Cullum, Andre King, Sara Ahern, Doug Boulanger, Katri Mullaly, Jennifer Hingston, and Chris Dwelley.

Ms. Cullum called the meeting to order at 4:34PM.

Approve Meeting Minutes

- Motion by Mr. King, seconded by Dr. Ahern, and the Committee voted, unanimously, to approve the Meeting Minutes of April 13, 2026.

Next Steps - Building-based needs District-wide

- Dr. Ahern stated she is being asked what is next: a new building? She asked the Subcommittee how they want to proceed with next steps.
- Ms. Cullum stated the reason Mr. Boulanger did all the school presentations was to compare the schools and their needs. It was to answer the question if it was worth it to move forward to consolidate two schools and go for a new building. It was to look at square footage costs. She asked what the others thought.
- Dr. Ahern stated there is an external view from the MSBA. BCIS and Centerville are the buildings in greatest need, as they are rated at a 3 out of 4 by the MSBA. They are the most expensive per square foot. She suggested having a School Committee Workshop with all five School Committee members talk through the options.
- Mr. Boulanger stated now that the Committee has all the information, it doesn't mean to just throw out the most expensive building. There are other factors. One of the schools might need a major remodel. Centerville needs a remodel. BCIS would also need work and a remodel. HyWest will also need some attention.
- Ms. Cullum stated the numbers bear out that we have two locations that have the most costly repairs and that is what the state said too. Dr. Ahern agreed that Centerville and BCIS are both rated 3 out of 4.
- Ms. Cullum asked if a new school was needed or accelerated repairs. Dr. Ahern stated the MSBA Core Program is for a new building or major renovations. The Accelerated Program is for doors, windows, roofs, etc.
- Ms. Cullum asked if Dr. Ahern is behind a new building or a major renovation. She stated there does not seem to be a large appetite on the Committee for a new building.
- Dr. Ahern stated conceptually, yes. There are issues that come up on a regular basis. Her only hesitation is how much is too much to ask for. The Town is talking about an override for the sewer project. She is up for the task, just worried about how much is too much.
- Ms. Cullum stated the School Committee needs to move forward with these discussions. She is happy to have a Workshop with the Committee.
- Mr. King stated relative to other districts like Yarmouth, they have a new middle school, new fields, and now funding for a secondary elementary school. He will reference this at the School Committee meeting. He is open to a Workshop. Falmouth approved a $2 million renovation of the Lawrance school. He would like to have a community listening session.
- Mr. Dwelley stated the sewer override is apt to pass especially since the town is obligated to do it. There will be challenges with a new school building unless you are solving another problem with it. The School is looking at a $3 million deficit in 2028. We will not see operating budget relief for the next 3-4 years.
- Ms. Cullum stated we have to look at what the savings would be if we did not have these schools that need the maintenance and repair. She asked if we could get a demographer for the next 5-10 years. Dr. Ahern thought about the demographer. It has been four years and a lot of the assumptions are no longer valid. The MSBA would want to see a consolidation of schools. There would be operating costs savings.
- Ms. Cullum asked what other problems can we solve. It is smart of Mr. Dwelley to think about it in that way.
- Mr. King is open to a Workshop in June or July. He wants to have an event where the community can come in. People are tied to the small village schools.
- Ms. Cullum thought the School Committee should get the information before the community.
- Mr. Dwelley stated for the community their neighborhood school could close if we do not find a source to fund the repairs and maintenance.
- Ms. Cullum asked what do we do with the properties after we close the schools. Can we use it for housing for teachers, first responders, etc.? Mr. Dwelley suggested offering that in phase two. Repurpose the buildings after the new school is voted on.

- Mr. Dwelley suggested having 3, 5, and 20 year plans and what the financial impacts are of that. There will still need to be some remodeling and upkeep.
- Mr. King stated other districts are moving forward and they have the same issues. Mr. Dwelley stated the difference in politics. Some towns will put these questions forward to the community. Town meetings make that a little easier.
- Ms. Cullum added that other towns are not as big as Barnstable. Our sewer project is a bigger project than in other towns. She suggested looping Mark Ells into this conversation to see where the school fits in with the Town's plan. We are one community with many different issues. What is the vision for the schools from the Town Council? We need help from the Town.
- Dr. Ahern stated, in relation to the politics and the precincts, if the community is looking at losing or gaining a school in your precinct, then it matters to you. The immediate next step is to bring the whole Committee together.
- Mr. Cullum would like to forecast the numbers to what happens with a new school or the path without a new building.
- Dr. Ahern also stated in other communities, the new school still needs to get the vote by the Town. The intermediate school was not an easy lift for Yarmouth.
- Ms. Cullum asked what the burden is for each taxpayer. We need the numbers. It is time for the town to embrace the school and for the school to embrace the town. She would like to have the numbers together for the next meeting, along with forecasting what it would cost for taxpayers, and the possibility of hiring a demographer. Dr. Ahern will get a quote from the demographer.
- Mr. Dwelley asked what is this group's goal.
- Ms. Cullum stated to see if it is more cost effective to stay with our current schools or move forward with a new school.
- Mr. Dwelley stated it is not cheaper to get a new school. If he was on the School Committee, he would ask how can you show me the cost to the taxpayer, when we do not know how we are going to fund the FY28 operating budget. We need to sit down with the School Committee and say things are looking bleak for us and have a conversation about the operating and capital budgets.
- Ms. Cullum stated the school buildings are costing money and Barnstable needs to be competitive with its neighbors. We can have a Workshop and gauge the appetite.
- Mr. King stated we need to have all the information before we get in front of the School Committee as a whole. He wants to continue this conversation at a meeting next month. He understands the challenges, but he is not deterred. He expects this Subcommittee to be making progress. There needs to be a Workshop in July with the School Committee or in August at the latest.
- The next meeting is June 15 at 4:30pm to look at the presentation to the whole School Committee.

Motion by Mr. King, seconded by Dr. Ahern, and the Subcommittee voted to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Kruczek
Executive Assistant