

The Facilities Subcommittee met on Monday, July 27, 2026, in a Virtual Zoom Meeting. Present were Jennifer Cullum, Andre King, Sara Ahern, Doug Boulanger, Chris Dwelley, and Jen Kruczek.

Ms. Cullum called the meeting to order at 9:25AM.

Approve Meeting Minutes

- Motion by Mr. King, seconded by Dr. Ahern, and the Committee voted, unanimously, to approve the Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2026.

Update on Facilities' Major Summer Projects

- Dr. Ahern shared that a memo regarding major summer projects was sent out on June 23 to the district. Mr. Boulanger will give the group updates on those projects.
- Mr. Boulanger spoke about the tennis courts, culinary classroom, and HVAC at BIS all scheduled to be completed at the beginning of August. There are hurdles with the door and hardware projects. Shipping times have been delayed to August 3, 10, and 27. The BCIS exterior doors are temporary. There was an issue with asbestos in the door frames, requiring those frames to be swapped out. Work was stopped from removing the front and handicap doors; they will not be removed until the new doors arrive. Delivery is scheduled for August 10 and installation will take place that week.
- Ms. Cullum raised concerns regarding safety at BCIS.
- Dr. Ahern said for the pipe wrapping at BUE and partial roof work at BWB, a meeting with contractors is scheduled to get a clearer picture of timing.
- Dr. Ahern asked Mr. Boulanger to speak about the Centerville modular demolition. Mr. Boulanger stated abatement took place last week, with expectations for the structure to come down this week.
- Mr. Boulanger stated the culinary project should be complete by mid-August so items can be moved back in. Plumbing is being addressed across the district this summer (bathrooms, toilet fixtures, broken tile, broken sink fixtures, etc.). Decisions are pending on new design versus remodel. No bid has been put out on design yet to get cost estimates for the future. EnviroMed started walk-throughs last week.
- Ms. Cullum stated the issue is the BHS bathroom facilities are not nice and clean.
- Mr. Boulanger detailed ongoing maintenance work including stripping, waxing, deep cleaning, and touch-up painting. PAC back-of-house work is underway, led by Bryce Harper, including AV work, larger screen TVs, cables, fire curtain, rigging, lighting, and sound updates. Phase 2 will involve more front-of-house construction (stage floor, seating, carpeting, orchestra pit, lighting booth, etc.). New PA systems and new phones are being installed across the district.
- Ms. Cullum noted that DPW redesigned the bathrooms at Craigsville Beach in-house and questioned if that could be done here. Dr. Ahern noted a capacity issue despite prior collaboration attempts.
- Mr. Boulanger noted some bathrooms are better than others and suggested placing them on different tiers—some need a whole remodel, while others only need new tile. Ms. Cullum requested more frequent public updates on bathroom projects to demonstrate progress.
- Mr. King inquired if the modular at Centerville was renovated, removed, or replaced. Mr. Boulanger clarified there were three portable classrooms in the district (food services, transportation, and one in Centerville). Food services and transportation have been removed, and Centerville's will now be removed as it was being used as storage and becoming dangerous.
- Mr. King emphasized that things should look good to help morale. He also expressed positive feedback regarding the technology work at the PAC.

Discuss the Town Council/Comprehensive Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC) Workshop

- Ms. Cullum watched both meetings and noted CFAC is noticing the School Department and mindful of its shortfalls. She emphasized the need for the School to continue the conversation and commended the Workshop presentation for getting the message across.
- Dr. Ahern noted that at the highest level, the Town Council is looking for a School Committee plan and strategy, explicitly including aging facilities, renovations, and new projects.
- Ms. Cullum expressed the need for leadership and stewardship from Dr. Ahern and Mr. Dwelley, stating options and a clear vision are needed to determine the best path forward.

- Ms. Cullum highlighted discussions from the School Committee Workshop regarding future debt exclusions. Major projects mentioned include two MSBA projects, BUES HVAC, and ongoing issues requiring more data on the worst buildings (Centerville and BCIS). She recommended laying this out clearly for the Town Council and CFAC. She recommended creating three different pitches for the School Committee, Town Council, and CFAC, emphasizing that a series of workshops will be needed.
- Dr. Ahern noted that time is critical when putting together a modest CIP forward this year, especially knowing limited funds are available. The MSBA project will require design work this fall, and the Town will need to decide how to fund the projects given all the moving parts.
- Mr. Dwelley stated on the capital side there are two projects the School knows it needs funding for. They would only be asking for a debt exclusion for those two projects unless the School Committee decided it wanted a new school. For the operating side, the School needs to say here is what we need and want. We need support for a level budget that does not use savings. The School can delay capital, but it cannot delay operating.
- Ms. Cullum asked what happened if the Town Council does not support the roof replacements. Mr. Dwelley said the state will wait for you to get funding in place for a little while. They will tell you there is a risk of losing the funding by a certain deadline.
- Mr. King stated there needs to be money available for the projects we need: MSBA and maintenance. He said we will pay far less for a new school building than paying for its maintenance. Mr. Dwelley stated the cost to maintain the current schools is half what it would cost for a new building.
- Mr. King stated the Committee needs to frame the new building better or stop talking about it.
- Dr. Ahern shared additional details on enrollment trends and noted she reached out to a demographer. MSBA would want consolidation if the decrease trend continues, which could lead to restructuring, though a new school could be unnecessary or a bigger school and restructuring downtown.
- Ms. Cullum inquired if the Seasonal Community Act could help and noted she would like to look into it.
- Mr. King thought the conversation needed to continue on a new building, pointing out that New Bedford is taking two schools and building one larger school.
- Mr. Dwelley asked if there are next steps for this group, specifically whether they should put together a recommendation to bring to the next Subcommittee meeting and then to the School Committee.
- Ms. Cullum addressed the dispensing of a property and seasonal community, asking if that helps leverage some properties. She noted they do not have the support of the School Committee for a new building and would not want to move forward without unanimous support, adding that with all the financial pressure, that vote cannot be forced.
- Dr. Ahern noted that a debt exclusion on the ballot could backfire as people get scared when there are other issues out there.
- Dr. Ahern suggested engaging the planning department to see what they are forecasting. She noted advocating for cost for the region, not getting the earmark, and the long-term impact of the sewer project and real estate market.
- Mr. Dwelley asked if the Committee wants to engage a consulting firm. If the goal is a new facility, there are firms that will come in, look at school buildings, tie to demographer work, and put together recommendations for the Committee.
- Ms. Cullum asked if the idea had legs and what the cost would be.
- Mr. Dwelley stated anything can have legs, but in the next two years, it is a bad idea given other financial issues in the Town. He suggested using that time for a consultant, making calls for estimated costs, and building procurement on that.
- Dr. Ahern liked the idea of an outside lens consultant, aging facilities, and demo shift.
- Mr. King agreed it is a good thought as an action step to reach out and see about costs, emphasizing the need for strong people who can speak to these issues. He noted Mr. Dwelley had asked if they wanted recommendations on how to get MSBA projects funded to get more involvement and communication.

MSBA Accelerated Repair Timeline and Funding for the Roof Projects Discussion

- Dr. Ahern stated there is a design at this time, with a package to review in October that will go to the MSBA Board of Directors. The time to secure funding runs December 9–March 8.
- Ms. Cullum felt the Town Council and CFAC are supportive of these projects.
- Mr. Dwelley asked if the Owner's Project Manager (OPM) can give construction cost estimates for these two projects. Mr. Boulanger will ask.

Next Steps

- Dr. Ahern will talk to Kathy Bent to fill her in, and she and Mr. Dwelley will do research on engagement with a consultant.
- Ms. Cullum stated there needs to be a Workshop for the School Committee for a path forward to give to the Town Council.
- The next meeting is scheduled for August 24 at 10:00 AM.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:38AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Kruczek
Executive Assistant