



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 9/15/2010

Thompson School Building Committee Meeting
 Wednesday, September 15, 2010
 Arlington High School
 Superintendent's Office – 6th Floor
 7:00 pm

Present:

Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Vice Chair
 Rob Juusola, Vice Chair TSBC
 John Cole, PTBC Chair
 Brian Sullivan, Town Manager
 Sheri Donovan, Thompson School Principal
 Domenic Lanzillotti, Town of Arlington, Purchasing Agent
 Mark Miano, Supt of Bldg Services, PTBC
 Tobey Jackson, Thompson School Parent Rep
 Suzanne Robinson, TSBC, PTBC
 Bill Shea, TSBC, PTBC
 Tony Lionetta, Capital Planning Rep
 Karen Tassone / Secretary
 Jeff Thielman, School Committee Rep

Attendees: PMA Consultants, Kevin Nigro
 HMFH Architects, George Metzger, Lori Cowles
 Mark Ryder, Director of Special Education APS

Call to order: 7:05

Study Process: Progress Update

Supt Bodie introduced Special Education Director Mark Ryder to speak to the necessity of the Early Childhood Center.

Mr. Ryder explained the history of IDEA including all of the legal requirements. Additionally Mr. Ryder gave a breakdown of all in house programs currently in APS and the increased need for more space due to an increase of students with special needs. There is no available space in any of the other schools to house these students.

Mr. Lionetta stated that he understands the need, but is concerned with what the cost of the project would be. Further that one of questions that will be asked is that if it is currently housed at AHS and if it is working why change it. Supt. Bodie stated that the school will create an analysis on forecasting costs and create a coherent argument to communicate to the public the need for the early childhood center.

Update on Temporary Student Relocation Scheme

Supt. Bodie reported on the research and options for student location during the Thompson Rebuild

- To keep students in classrooms at various schools, each school would need to accommodate 1-2 classrooms, which would cost an estimated \$.5 million in busing costs each year for up to two years.
- Condensing to 2-3 schools would mean modulars estimated at \$1.7 million for 18 months, these would have to be attached to the school to ensure that students had access to shared space.
- Modulars also pose problems for parking at the schools; one option to consider is to place the modulars at the Ottoson Middle School permanently to help alleviate future overcrowding (after the rebuild).
- The possibility of renting a closed catholic school nearby, i.e. Medford, Somerville, or North Cambridge. Cost estimate for that would be approximately \$2 million.

Update from Systems Sub-committee

Lori Cowles met with the engineers and new regulations require 40 CHIPS, MSBA will add additional points for increased MA CHIPS (currently 2 points for 50 MA CHIPS).

Committee member Bill Shea would like to have this school to be built similar schools as air conditioned ready. (I.e. duct work ready)

Town Manager will clarify that the Thompson School will not be used as an emergency shelter.

Traffic Study/TAC Update

No report

Update on Park Land Swap

Kevin Nigro reported on the meeting with the Parks and Recreation Department. The department was very receptive to the ideas, could see the benefit of fields being greatly improved over their current conditions and would like to see the design. They did have concerns over the need for neighbor buy in, and voiced concern about the impact of their receiving capital funds. Parks and Recreation would like to meet again to schedule a joint public meeting.

On a motion by Toni Lionetta seconded by Suzanne Robinson it was unanimously

Voted that the costs for renovating the fields be included as part of the override budget and not included in the Capital Planning budget.

Sheri Donovan and Tobey Jackson will host a neighborhood meeting to discuss the land swap.

Town Manager Brian Sullivan reported that according Town Counsel Juliana Rice legislative approval is not needed for the park land swap, only approval by Town Meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Shea seconded by Ms. Johnson it was unanimously

Voted to submit as a placeholder a warrant article for the Special Town Meeting that addresses the land swap issue.

Principal Sheri Donovan will contact Town Counsel relative to the specific language.

Preliminary Design Program

After an initial discussion of what the committees' order of submittal options would be it was decided to hold the decision over to the next meeting based on requests for more in-depth financial /cost estimates of each plan.

The Town Manager stated that he would like more financial information available before moving forward in order to ensure that the members of the capital planning department had the same information as they would be instrumental in the approval/override process.

The Committee discussed what the impact of waiting for the MSBA January meeting. Kevin Nigro responded that it would take 3 months to develop the schematics, it most likely would not make a June Town Meeting and at that point would not make the MSBA agenda until July. That would mean the possibility of a special town meeting in September.

It was the consensus of the committee that the MSBA Feasibility Study submittal would not take place until December, for the January MSBA meeting agenda.

Approval/Vote of Invoices

On a motion by Brian Sullivan, seconded by Diane Johnson it was unanimously:

Voted to approve PMA Consultant invoice 03383-10 in the amount of \$1,485.00.

On a motion by Diane Johnson seconded by Brian Sullivan it was unanimously:

Voted to approve HMFH Architects, Inc invoice 996348 in the amount of \$23,000.

Approval/Vote of Minutes

On a motion by Domenic Lanzillotti seconded by Diane Johnson it was

Voted approval of the meeting minutes of August 4, 2010. Unanimous

On a motion by Tony Lionetta seconded by Bill Shea it was unanimously:

Voted to approve the meeting minutes of August 25, 2010.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 6th

Adjourned @ 9:45 pm

Submitted by
Karen Tassone
Recording Secretary