

SECTION F

FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT

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FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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

Therefore, it is the Committee's goal to provide the facilities needed for the number of students in the school system, and to provide the kind of facilities that will best support and accommodate the educational program.

In planning facilities, the Committee recognizes that capital outlay funds are limited, and that priorities must be established to make the best use of the school building dollar. The Committee's first objective will be to develop a plan that eliminates overcrowding. Whenever possible, the cultural as well as educational needs of the community will be considered in planning facility expansions.

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

LEGAL REF.: 963 CMR 2.00

FACILITIES PLANNING

School Building Committee:

The School Committee, Selectmen, and Town Moderator appoint a nine-person school building committee for specific building projects. One member of the Building Committee will be a School Committee member. This committee acts as the administrative authority for the projects, subject to approval of various actions by the 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 the requirements set forth by the Massachusetts School Building Authority.
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.
5. At the completion of the school building project, the Committee will finalize all warrants and close the project.

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

RETIREMENT OF FACILITIES

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

The School Committee 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 children, including alternative plans according to Committee policy
4. Transportation factors, including numbers of children bussed, 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

NAMING OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS OR FACILITIES

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance when naming a school, district building, major portion of a building or grounds. The school district recognizes that the process to name a school building, major portion of a building or school grounds include participation of the community. However, the naming of school buildings, major portions of a building or school grounds is the responsibility of the School Committee. Personal prejudice or favoritism, political pressure, or an acceptance of a contribution will not be an influence when a decision is made regarding naming of school buildings or facilities. The school district recognizes that a name shall encourage unification of all of the stakeholders of the community and have equal relevance to all and should have come with educational significance or inspiration.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will establish an ad hoc committee to bring forth the name recommendations for consideration by the School Committee. The recommendation of the ad hoc committee will go to a public hearing of the School Committee. At the time of the public hearing, sufficient background information and rationale for the dedication should be submitted.

It is the policy of the School Committee that the naming or renaming of existing structures or physical spaces under our jurisdiction will occur infrequently and on a limited basis. Historical preservation and respect for our traditions are a key component in honoring our past.

March 24, 2008