

Name of Committee: Override Study Committee – Capital Sub-Committee

Meeting Date: February 6, 2014

Time: 8:00a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Meeting Location: Town Hall

Members Present:

X Sergio Modigliani

X Lisa Serafin Sheehan (Chair)

Carol Levin

X Timothy Sullivan

The meeting involved a discussion about to what extent the Sub-Committee felt that a ninth school option had been fully explored, especially given that it was the preference of virtually everyone on BSPACE and the School Committee. In particular, there was a discussion about why change from this option if it offers the best potential to extend and improve the Schools.

Tim felt that a ninth school option should be plan “A” unless a better plan presented itself. Expand in Place should be the “Plan B.”

Sergio said there is time to hire a Development Consultant, on a parallel track to Expand in Place, to look at potential sites, including those acquired by eminent domain.

The Committee reviewed the current construction timelines for Expand in Place, noting no new classrooms (other than Lawrence and that is stalled) will be on-line for 4 1/2 years, and an additional year could be created (to September, 2019) using Old Lincoln School (OLS) as short term swing/overflow space without impacting the possible use of OLS as part of a revised Brookline High School.

Lisa reviewed the B-SPACE process leading to the Expand in Place recommendation noting that it was unable to find a new K-8 site in North Brookline, but that this result was also in part based on two premises that would now appear to be no longer valid. First that new classroom capacity be on line by September 2017, and second not having the benefit of the using OLS as a short-term solution for overflow space as new classroom assets come on line. Finally she noted that eminent domain and other non-town properties were ruled out because of the longer time-line, complexity and the cost was unknown.

Sergio noted that Expand in Place brings with it the creation of large K-8 schools and a concern that the educational impacts of that need to be better understood. In addition, Expand-in-Place brings with it complex construction sequencing and relocation of students.

The Sub-Committee agreed that the need is just barely being met by Expand-In-Place and it does not address the sub-optimal classrooms, identified as 11-13 by the School Committee.

Tim noted that there were many reasons to suggest that Pierce and not Driscoll might be a better Expand-In-Place option noting that it was next up on the capital plan, not Driscoll. That it was probably a better site for expansion and that it was probably in a better part of town for expansion. He noted that parental interest also seemed better than at Driscoll and that it could potentially accommodate a BEEP center in a part of town that was ideal for it. The issue with Pierce was cost, but Pierce would be needed at some point given how tired the building was. Tim noted that having OLS as swing space for a Pierce project was important since even though OLS could not quite handle all of Pierce, if OLS was part of the high school where would you possibly relocate the students from Pierce during construction.

The Sub-Committee agreed to ask Dick and Susan for a meeting with Mel Kleckner (and perhaps Bill Lupini) to address the Town's relationship with MSBA and 9th school options.

The meeting adjourned.