

**Andover School Committee
Work Session
Minutes of September 22, 2016**

Members in Attendance: Chair, Joel Blumstein, Vice-Chair, Susan McCready, Ted Teichert, Shannon Scully, and Paul Murphy

Others in Attendance: Superintendent Dr. Sheldon Berman, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Administration, Paul Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent Nancy A. Duclos, Ph.D., and Vishvesh Kaul AHS Student Government Liaison.

1. Work Session- Facilities

Facilities subcommittee members Ted Teichert and Shannon Scully talked about their findings and the process followed. MTG, an outside company, conducted a comprehensive review of all Town/School buildings and provided a report of their findings. The report included projections and scores of the condition of the schools and whether they are over/under capacity.

Four schools were identified as having the greatest facility needs: West Elementary, Doherty Middle School, and Shawsheen School, based on facility condition, and AHS, based on overcrowding. Shawsheen School was removed from the list based on the assumption that the preschool will be relocated and concentration shifted to the other three schools (West Elem, DMS, AHS). The length of time to secure funding from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) is such that we wouldn't be able to open a new school facility until 2021 or 2022, and it is unrealistic that we could build without their assistance. The first step is to submit a Statement of Interest (SOI) and the School Committee has to identify which school is the first priority. If an SOI is submitted by April 2017, we won't hear back from MSBA until December 2017. It is important to determine a strategy to meet all the needs that MGT has presented in their findings. If the MSBA selects our submittal, a feasibility study will determine if a school should be renovated or newly built. The School Committee also needs to gather input from the community.

Dr. Berman presented a series of slides, highlighting two core questions: What should Andover Public Schools look like in 2031 and given that MSBA only accepts proposals for one school, where do we start?

Andover has three relatively new schools, while the others schools are dated. The Facility Assessment Scores show Shawsheen, West Elementary, and Doherty Middle School in the poor/unsatisfactory category and included Andover High School due to the overcrowding. By 2025, the enrollment at AHS is expected to increase to approximately 2,000 students.

Possible Plan sequence options were included in the presentation and pros and cons of each discussed.

Option A: 1st School sequence: AHS w/Pre-K, West Elem/WMS, and Doherty

Option B: 2nd School sequence: West Elementary/West Middle, Doherty, AHS w/Pre-K.

Option C: 3rd school sequence: West Elementary/West Middle, AHS w/Pre-K, Doherty

Potential scenarios included a conceptual model of West Elementary and West Middle School on a combined site (similar to Wood Hill and High Plain), and ideas on how to address pressing needs in the interim while waiting for renovations/new build.

Dr. Berman read through the problem statements for the three schools and why they are proposing that renovations or new schools be constructed. MSBA uses a set of priorities to determine which schools they will consider to fund for renovation or new construction. Dr. Berman highlighted the priorities he believes fall within the needs of Andover.

Recommendations for Pre-school options include adding it to the renovation at AHS, adding to West Elementary if West Elementary and WMS are *not* co-located, or adding it to Sanborn which would require renovations to Sanborn. Choosing a separate site for the preschool would result in no contribution from MSBA. The Feasibility Study determines if a school is to be rebuilt or renovated.

Pros and Cons:

Dr. Berman explained the Core Program Process Overview once a project has been approved by MSBA. School Building Option A smart sheet shows the phases of the construction for all three buildings for each option presented. The SOI has to be submitted by April 14, 2017 and requires various votes of the School and Town. Paul Szymanski will send the School Committee his chart on what needs to be accomplished and when; he recommends that the SC decide by November 17th on the school for which an SOI will be submitted.

Paul Szymanski said the initial stages of developing the CIP includes input from all principals, will be very complicated, and contingent on decisions made over the next few months. The major implication to the CIP will be seen in FY-19.

The School Committee adjourned for dinner break at 6:40 PM and reconvened the meeting at 6:55 P.M.

Decision Making Process:

AHS Principal Phil Conrad spoke about what he envisions as necessary changes for AHS including increasing the size of classrooms and adding additional classrooms. The HVAC systems that control the climate in the building limits what they can do with the size of the classrooms. Andover would be better off with a modern facility providing the space and facilities needed to provide proper programs. Academic spaces need to be reconfigured. The way the building is currently sited the rooms heat up quite a bit with no way to cool them as there is not enough air flow due to configuration of the windows. The high school classrooms do not have conditioned air to take the humidity out causing problems that impede progress of students and what teachers can do. The Special Education Room was renovated this summer for air conditioning.

The teaching staff at AHS has concerns with the space limitations that reduces options for teaching and the lack of air (people went home exhausted the first two weeks of school due to heat and humidity). The temperature takes a lot of energy from staff and limits what they can do. AHS will be limited in what it can do until a new high school can be built.

DMS Principal Robin Wilson agreed that so much of our kids' educational experience is based on the physical layout of the building which can limit what can be taught. DMS is struggling right now – spaces need to be more usable, the inside needs to be brought up to compliance, rooms painted and reconfigured. Ted Teichert mentioned that DMS was built to be an elementary school.

Paul Szymanski reported that Shawsheen also has space limitations and does not have ground level access, West Elementary is an aging site with space limitations and the proposed site work for drainage is a compliance matter and can't be completed until the decision made. The 1995 renovation at AHS put us in compliance with ADA but more could be done. Acoustical tiles have been installed in various classrooms to accommodate students with auditory needs and air conditioning installed in an area at WHMS to accommodate a student's needs. At some point, we will have all rooms compliant with needs of our students; one way is reactive and the other is proactive. The custodial staff does everything they possibly can.

If AHS is renovated first, we would be addressing the overcrowding sooner but less likely that there would be a new high school. More likely to get a new high school if a lower priority but we would have to endure the overcrowding longer. It would be advantageous for the DMS students to have another building to go to during a renovation.

The impact of special education needs has caused more limitations in meeting student needs; we should include the way student learning has changed in the statement to MSBA. Education has evolved but our buildings haven't kept up with the evolution. Additionally, the two TOPS Program are currently housed at Central Office and there is inadequate space for pull-out for English Language Learners at our schools.

Dr. Berman pointed out that the application for the SOI is crucial. The Committee discussed how to make our case more compelling and to include information on the need for more instructional areas (i.e. small rooms), the increase in ELL students, construction, enrollment, etc. MSBA has about \$600M per year to spend using a pay-as-you go system reducing the long-term costs to school districts.

Focus on write-up of the three options:

Joel Blumstein said all three options seem to have the Pre-K with AHS; the delay of the high school prolongs finding a home for the pre-school. Consider changing the wording to West El/WMS to potentially co-locating.

Paul Murphy said putting two systems under the same roof/site seems like a good long-term game plan and shows financial stewardship.

List the problems that need to be addressed by building.

Other ideas or suggestions should be sent to Dr. Berman.

Talking through the public process:

This is a complicated subject and avenues to clearly communicate the information were discussed which included: scheduling community forums in smaller settings to allow questions and feedback, developing surveys with open ended responses, scheduling a presentation with the Board of Selectmen / Finance Committee, and school faculty, holding individual breakout areas on each proposal. Pull the presentation into a video and send out. Have a forum videotaped and edited with one of the power points making it available to all. Keep conversations balanced, include a vision of what schools could look like (before/after).

Nancy Duclos suggested having visuals available for public to see since many of them have never been inside the schools or if they have, not for a long period of time. Coordinate public tours of the buildings with the public forums.

Dr. Berman will send out a Connect 5 message to parents and send the information to the local newspapers to reach the broader community. November 17th is when the School Committee would like to make a decision. Vishvesh will talk with the AHS students to find out student's ideas on what needs to be changed at AHS.

CIP:

The CIP for FY-18 was provided in the School Committee packet. Dr. Berman suggested they vote on the FY-18 CIP at the next meeting on October 6th. In the meantime, general feedback should be sent to Paul Syzmanski and Dr. Berman.

I. Adjournment

On a motion by Shannon Scully and seconded by Ted Teichert, the School Committee voted to adjourn. Roll call: T. Teichert-Y, S. Scully-Y, P. Murphy-Y, S. McCready-Y, and J. Blumstein-Y.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary

Documents: Andover Facilities Master Plan