Minutes of School Building Advisory Committee Meeting

June 27, 2013

Committee Members Present: Loretta Arthur, Kenneth Bassett, Vincent Cannistraro, Timothy Christenfeld, Jen James, Steven Perlmutter, Maggy Pietropaolo, Hathaway Russell, Peter Sugar and Gary Taylor

Other Persons Present: Becky McFall, Sarah Cannon Holden, John Snell

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm.

**1. Approval of minutes from June 18, 2013.**

The minutes have been circulated via email and via hard copy in person at this meeting. Tim has incorporated suggested changes into the minutes presented tonight. There is an outstanding change that will be added once Jennifer Glass is consulted.

Discussion of minutes taking. We will record discussions, summarize those discussions and record actions taken. Names will not be recorded in the minutes, except where required (votes, motions, etc.)

Motion made by S. Perlmutter to adopt the minutes of June 18, 2013, as “Draft” minutes, to be finalized after consultation with Jennifer Glass, who is on vacation, about possible addition to minutes. Seconded by Peter Sugar.

Motion passed unanimously.

**2. Forms to Town Clerk**

Please submit form and get sworn in with Susan Brooks after July 1st.

**3. Documents to Review**

Would it be possible to have hard copies of the documents the committee needs to read available in one space in a school building/office?

Jen James will work with Gary Taylor and the superintendent's office to (a) create a list of key reading materials for both background information and upcoming meetings and (b) print and bind them for the committee's use.

**4. Presentation by Dr. Becky McFall, Superintendent of Lincoln Public Schools.**

Dr. McFall gave a presentation on "School Design to Support Educational Vision," which focused on a goal of what type of school do we want and what are the core priorities for the school buildings.

Please refer to the PowerPoint presentation of Dr. McFall, circulated on July 8, 2013, which is incorporated by reference into these minutes.

**Questions/comments:**

The Superintendent shared with the committee the design of the proposed floor plan for the new Hansom primary school building, which is governed by the Department of Defense, not the MSBA.

Lincoln has outstanding special education programs with existing building/design/structures. A committee member questioned whether this space needs to be changed. It was pointed out that the space could be improved to better serve children with special needs.

What are the priorities from the presentation? Are we meeting base needs or are we talking about a vision for teaching and learning in the future?

Could we save money by building flexible spaces--staffing would be different as it would be easier to schedule sessions with kids if you had dedicated space.

We could improve air quality/temperature/sound and lighting, but will not change the way teachers teach (which is necessary).

if we stay within the building footprint (shape), will we be able to adequately address educational priorities?

Can we survey parents to find out why they choose to send their children to private schools? For some, it is a family tradition. Others believe their children will receive a better education.

Teacher quality is the key to learning. We want to attract the best teachers. We want 21st century teaching.

What about the MSBA 50 year requirement? Currently, educational philosophy changes every 20 years or so (or less). How best to predict/prepare for those changes?

What Becky would like to see:

 -dedicated cafeteria which can be used for multiple purposes

 -breakout rooms

 -gym to be connected to building

 -different types of spaces, of different sizes

 - a space big enough for a whole grade assembly.

 -improved air quality, light, acoustics

How to preserve agricultural/ecological opportunities? What do we need to know? We should focus on maintaining/enhancing access to those spaces.

What is the impact of new building for recruitment of new teachers? Does an improved space inspire innovative teaching? On morale alone--yes. Having an improved school is helpful in hiring.

**5. Committee Members “Initial” Ideas On Pathways the Committee Could Recommend to the School Committee:**

a.Hanscom design process--ability to really consider how your program fits in the building. It will shape the way teachers teach and children learn. Buildings do matter. We want to enhance the program

b. How can we work within the campus we have? Don’t have the money to tear down what we have and build a new building.

c. How to think about things that don't fit into the MSBA process--

 -is there a less expensive option that makes sense?

 -is there a repair strategy that makes sense?

 -can we really put another community use on the site that's not here now (like the COA). Is it possible to work with the Conservation Commission to gain some more space?)

 -what can we do with the L-shaped space? Can the 1948 portion of the building be saved?

d. Crucial to look at different options. Has no confidence in Maguire Report cost estimates. A major issue is the humidity in the air. Talk to Sudbury and see how they did it (built/renovated a school for less money). At an appropriate time, take some contractors through to get other cost estimates. Leans toward minimalist approach.

e. How do we go back and revisit the numbers?

f. Maintain the L-shaped approach. This approach was strongly supported by the charrettes. Don’t go back to the “Preferred Option.”

g. Consider community use. Continue to ask questions as we approach various options--don't rely on answers from the past. (No trust in Maguire report.)

h. Looking at repair option--what needs to be replaced and what is perfectly serviceable?

i. One pathway is what is a true minimum that we could spend to fix the school? Another pathway is, if we are going to spend millions, let’s get Becky what she wants.

j. Come up with educational and physical priorities and their costs (why are there two sets of priorities?)

k. Delivering meaningful choices to the town with costs (i.e., if we spend this much, this is what we get).

l. Lets talk about ideas based on what Becky wants.

m. Not getting stuck in the here and now--concerned about how we reconcile a large one-time cost with ongoing and future asks for funding to make the school system excellent.

n. The values of the town to be reflected in whatever we do--really important for Lincoln to remain in the top echelon of education. Pathways could include:

 1. Minimalist repairs

 2. Keep the L

 3. Tear the schools down and build new schools

(Many options within top two of this list.)

o. The cafeteria situation is an “absolute disaster.” Teacher technology is critical. Repairs do not help the culture of the school. How do we go back and revisit the numbers. One pathway is we get state assistance and we have to look at repair/renovate options. Another pathway is to look at the same options in the context of the town not getting state assistance.

**Future Work of the Committee**

Can our next meeting be about ideas? Repair or L option?

COA/Rec Dept--multiple uses for other groups? Can they come to the next meeting to help inform the campus-wide part of solving this problem?

Multiple uses of some key spaces in the schools that are used by other groups?

Can the school be a multi-use community center? Can we build a building that will accommodate a school and the COA? Specific addressing of town's needs.

What to do in the next meeting?

 -Could begin to look at what came out of the charrettes.

 -Specific ideas about what could be done--homework for next meeting

 -Could we establish sub-groups?

 -Chair to circulate ideas about next meeting

9:55p.m. Meeting adjourned

Minutes submitted by Jen James.