

# GARDNER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

70 Waterford Street  
Gardner, MA 01440

Facilities Sub-Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, February 28, 2017  
Prospect Street School  
Minutes

Members Present: Mr. Abare (Chair), Mr. Swartz, Mr. LaFreniere

Members Absent: none

Others Present: Mr. Detweiler (Business Administrator), Mr. O'Brien (Facilities Director), Mr. Pellegrino (Superintendent), Mr. McCormick (Principal), Mr. Johnson (Ward 5 Councilor)

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by the Chair.

A motion was made by Mr. Abare and seconded by Mr. LaFreniere to accept the January 17, 2017 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

The committee discussed the MSBA Project Approval for a new school building. A building committee will be formed by the Mayor to begin the planning process.

Mr. Swartz started off the Honeywell Project update by sharing notes and plans from the bi-weekly meeting with Honeywell. Mr. O'Brien reported that he has been working with the contractors to look at the footprint of the units at Elm St School. If the replacements are not the same footprint there may be the need for abatement. He also advised that once the new heating units are installed for next season it will take some time to balance the system for steam heat. Mr. O'Brien reported that the High School has 24 Bunsen burners that use LP gas that will need to be replaced with burners that use natural gas. Mr. Swartz reported light showing under two new cafeteria doors at the north end of the Middle School. Mr. O'Brien spoke about the effect of warming and cooling cycles on the shape of the weather proofing material.

Mr. Swartz spoke about his experience in building storage sheds and recommended putting one on the projects list for the High School. A discussion led by Mr. O'Brien ensued including building permit requirements. Mr. LaFreniere suggested that perhaps the City could develop a central managed storage facility.

During a discussion of the Buildings and Grounds Report Mr. O'Brien addressed two underground tanks at the High School owned by Eastern Propane. He reported speaking

with the fire department during which he received verbal approval to pump out the two tanks and, once the warm weather returns, cut the tops off and fill them with sand.

Potential upgrades for practice fields at the High School were discussed. It was decided to hold the next Facilities Subcommittee meeting at the High School on March 14 and to tour the fields at that time with the Athletic Director. Mr. Abare initiated a discussion about a finding a suitable alternate site for graduation this year. Mr. Pellegrino agreed to look into alternative sites such as the gym at MWCC. This prompted the idea of possibly including a 2,000 seat capacity auditorium in the design of the new school.

A discussion of needed generators wrapped in a discussion of the need for auxiliary heaters in the High School boiler room.

Mr. McCormick reported on recent improvements to the Prospect Street School, including the entry camera system, new exterior doors in the gym, and that the oil burners will be switched over to gas within six months. Trees have been cut back by the DPW and old playground equipment removed. Recent upgrades in the wifi system have been made to accommodate 1:1 Chromebook utilization. Built in 1922 with beautiful architecture, all the classrooms are being utilized, with a tech room in the basement. He noted handicap access issues.

A motion was made by Mr. LaFreniere and seconded by Mr. Swartz to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously at 5:12 pm.