

**Gardner Waterford Elementary School
School Building Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2019
Mayor's Conference Room 5:00 pm
Working Group**

Present

Mayor Mark Hawke; Mark Pellegrino, Superintendent of Schools; Jennifer Pelavin, School Committee Vice Chair; Anne Hurst, School Committee Member; Robert Swartz, School Committee Member; Kristian Whitsett and Helen Fantini, Architects, Jones-Whitsett Architects; Alan Minkus, President, and Tim Alix, Project Manager, Colliers International; Steve Hemman, Special Projects Assistant to the Superintendent; Courtney Dunn, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent; Bob Hankinson, Community Member; Heidi Jandris, Community Member; Jennifer Dymek, Chief Procurement Officer; Chief Richard Ares, Gardner Fire Department; Joyce West, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Earl Martin, Principal of Waterford Street School; City Council President Scott Graves, Karen Hardern, City Councillor, Chief Richard Braks, Police Department; Catherine Goguen, Chief Academic Officer; Ronald Cormier, Member of the Building Committee; Christine Johnson, City Councillor; Wayne Anderson, Director of Facilities

Minutes

Dr. Hemman explained the purpose of the meeting and asked Mr. Whitsett to present the flier and slideshow that will be used in presentations this evening to a public hearing with the School Committee and City Council present, as well as in presentations to local community organizations.

Mr. Whitsett shared the presentation and explained the following changes:

- Text on slides 4 and 5 was changed to clarify questions that have been asked regarding the feasibility study and also on the other options that were explored.
- Changes to slide 11 offered additional information on preliminary site plan and traffic study.
- Information added on slide 16 elaborated on plans for stormwater at the site.
- Outdoor learning and play slides were adjusted to reflect the environmentally friendly goals of the district and architects.
- Information regarding the MSBA project cost comparisons on slide 23 was added to provide a more detailed depiction of how construction costs are going up at higher rates than inflation.

Dr. Hemman asked to go back to the traffic study slide and requested more clarification. Fuss & O'Neill conducted studies on Pearl Street and Catherine Street and outlined key findings, suggesting that the new elementary school will not degrade traffic on Pearl Street but did offer recommendations for how safety and traffic can be treated. Fuss & O'Neill met with the City Department of Public Works and the Department agreed with their findings and recommendations. Some of the recommendations included brush control and moving utility poles to help control sight lines, as well as making adjustments to the traffic patterns with an extra turning lane and safer pedestrian access.

Mr. Whitsett gave an explanation of the specific points that are included in the trifold pamphlet - including more information and photos of the existing conditions of Waterford Street School and Elm Street School. The architects suggested posting pamphlets at schools and Central Office, and explained that taking copies to presentations and family engagement events would also be beneficial..

Dr. Hemman asked the public outreach working group members to explain when and how they would present. Mr. Swartz explained that he would be going to the AARP/Golden Agers and Chief Braks would go with him to show support. Mayor Hawke has a scheduled presentation at the Gardner Museum on June 13, and also plans to meet with Gardner Square Two in the coming weeks. Mr. Pellegrino will be meeting with the Parent-Teacher Organizations this month. Dr. Hemman asked Mrs. Dunn if she would handle the delivery of the pamphlets to the local child care organizations. Mrs. Dunn agreed. Mayor Hawke asked that as many members attend presentations as possible.

Dr. Hemman explained that the Public Hearing would be directly following the Building Committee meeting and would occur in the City Hall Chambers with Mr. Whitsett, Helen Fantini, Tim Alix and Eric Bernardi sharing the presentation and would be followed by questions from members of the community.

Dr. Hemman reminded the group of the next full Building Committee meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 4 p.m. The meeting that follows is June 26, 2019 and there will need to be a quorum for that meeting.

Other Business

Dr. Hemman asked the committee if they planned to address the editorial that was written in The Gardner News. Mayor Hawke explained that he had tried to make contact with the person who wrote the piece and received no response.

Dr. Hemman also expressed the need to address proposed plans for the current buildings that exist as part of the School Department, as that has been a repeated concern. Mayor Hawke explained that he would address those concerns at the hearing, noting that the Boys and Girls Club has interest in the Waterford Street School building, and some collaboratives, as well as Central Office and Gardner Academy, have expressed interest in repurposing spaces in Elm Street School.

Mr. Swartz moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 p.m.
Seconded by Mayor Hawke

Vote - so voted.