

Minutes from MGRHS Building Committee Mtg Jan. 17, 2006

Committee Members Present: Irene Addison, Thomas Bartels, Nat Karns, Jack Hickey, Andy Hogeland, Beth Goodman, Bob Ericson, Also present: Lee Dore (Dore and Whittier Architects), and Dr. William Travis

Meeting came to order at 6:05.

Minutes from previous meeting of January 10, 2006 approved.

**Outreach.** Andy Hogeland reported that he and Nat Karns visited the Lanesborough PTO. The discussion there was productive and Andy felt there was evidence of a desire on behalf of the PTO to participate in the MGRHS activities, including the PTO meetings and other public presentations of building committee. Andy and Bill Travis taped a show on the feasibility study for Willinet. Upcoming meetings include meeting with the Williamstown Elementary School PTO on February 8, 2006; Williamstown Finance Committee February 16, 2006, a possible meeting with the Lanesborough Fire Department, and a meeting with the Williamstown Chamber of Commerce to be set up in early March. We intend to schedule return visits to the boards of selectmen in Williamstown and Lanesborough at the end of February or in March, when the draft feasibility study is available for review.

**Facility Audit.** Jack Hickey suggested committee members revisit 2002 Facility Audit. He expressed concern over the \$1.4m improvements mentioned in the audit and potential cost outlined at the January 10 presentation to the public. Irene replied that differences in the 2002 audit could be explained by many factors, including the very high increase in construction cost estimates in the last few years and the fact that the 2002 audit did not include estimate of compliance with many other requirements, such as cost of ADA compliance.

**Process.** Andy asked Beth Goodman to check on the legal requirements for the school district vote to incur debt, the town meeting timeline and related matters.

**Enrollment Projections.** Lee Dore reported on the draft findings of the subcontractor, Economic and Policy Resources (“EPR”). They estimated a 3.1% increase in population over the next ten years. They also see a trend of students leaving the middle school and high school that may be due to a number of factors. They see a fairly level student population in a range of between 690 to 702 students. For planning purposes, Lee Dore has used 750 students for the space analysis. Lee will prepare a draft fact sheet for review by the building committee. The building committee had a number of comments on the draft enrollment report, including the need to clarify what towns are included in the reference to student numbers and a request to change the grade groupings.

**Space Needs.** The Committee discussed a draft proposal providing a preliminary breakdown of space requirements. The Dore and Whittier proposal provides for only a

modest decrease in space although the original building was constructed to handle many more students than the present day and project future student population. There is actually increase in space requirements per pupil due to new programs such as Title IX, which requires girls' and boys' facilities to be equal, and new standards for educational programs, such as media, science, and technology. Nat Karns listed seven or eight criteria to use in presenting the concepts in the space analysis. Lee is going to send the committee a draft fact sheet on space needs for review before the public meeting next week.

The following are Nat Karn's suggested points for summarizing the space needs analysis:

- More efficient use of general educational space
- Provides for project-based learning and collaborative teaching
- Fewer but larger modern science labs
- Consolidated media center/computer labs/graphics arts labs/technology education center
- Larger arts space
- Better layout of music space
- Better layout and achieve Title IX equality for physical education space
- Adequate special education space
- Larger, more functional performing arts space

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15PM