

Whitman-Hanson Regional School District
Whitman Middle School Feasibility Study
Building Committee Meeting
Held on March 22, 2021
Zoom Meeting virtually held for the
Whitman Middle School
100 Corthell Avenue, Whitman

Meeting Convened: 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:28 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Frederick Small, John Tuffy, Daniel Cullity,
Christopher Scriven, Jeffrey Szymaniak, George Ferro,
Kerri Sandler, Crystal Regan, Robert Curran,
John Galvin, David Cordero, Don Esson, Rich Pulkinen,
Beth Stafford, Randy LaMattina, Lincoln Heineman

Committee Members Absent: Ernie Sandland

Chair Small, brought the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and stated that the meeting was being recorded for broadcast at a later date.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of January 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes

VOTE: Chris Scriven motioned; Beth Stafford seconded; voted by roll call to approve the meeting minutes of the January 11, 2021 meeting.

Frederick Small – Yes
Daniel Cullity – Yes
Christopher Scriven – Yes
Kerri Sandler – Yes
Crystal Regan – Yes
Robert Curran – Yes
John Galvin – Yes
David Cordero – Yes
Don Esson – Yes
Rich Pulkinen – Yes
Beth Stafford – Yes
Randy LaMattina - Yes
Lincoln Heineman – Abstain
The motion passed.

III. MSBA – Status of Eligibility Period

Mr. Szymaniak provided a brief synopsis of the status of the eligibility period. He stated that there are 8 modules and we have completed Module one. This consisted of submitting the Compliance Certification, forming a school building committee, providing the educational questionnaire, submitting the online enrollment projection and maintenance and capital planning information. The local vote was taken last year and the feasibility agreement was executed. Mr. Szymaniak reported that we are now in a holding pattern, waiting for approval from MSBA.

The next meeting with MSBA is scheduled for April 14, 2021 and this will determine if we move forward to the next module which would be forming the Project Team.

Mr. Small referenced the designation of a full-time employee of a municipality or school district who must be a Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Official (MCPPO) stating that Lincoln Heineman would most likely be that person. Lincoln would like to discuss with Mr. Szymaniak, at a later date, the responsibilities of this position.

IV. Review of Enrollment Projections

Mr. Szymaniak reviewed the enrollment information that was submitted to MSBA. Initially, MSBA had projected 575 students for a grade 5-8 building. They have agreed with the numbers that we provided and the school will be built for 675 students, grades 5 – 8. If MSBA or the District decides to modify this, then the school would be built for 515 students grades 6 – 8. He thanked Bob Curran for his work on the enrollment projection of 675 which is a sufficient number for the Town's growth.

Mr. Galvin questioned the decision and process on building a grades 5-8 school versus grades 6-8 school. Mr. Szymaniak reported that based on an educational view we are aligning grades 5-8 with the Hanson Middle School. Once we move forward with MSBA, they would provide additional information on this process. Mr. Ferro shared his opinion on the benefits of building a grade 5 – 8 school, referencing how to set-up the school for the different stages of adolescence, the differences between the ages of 9 and 10 versus age 14 and how it would mirror what would happen when they attend high school. He feels that a grade 5-8 school would be the optimal decision and would offer a unique setting for students. Mr. Galvin also mentioned the difference in cost to the taxpayers for the grades 5-8 or 6-8 school. Mr. Heineman inquired as to how much input the MSBA would have on what grade level for the school and how it is determined. Mr. Szymaniak referred to the Statement of Interest that we submitted and how we wanted to build a grades 5-8 school. Since the building currently houses grades 6-8, the MSBA based their numbers on that. He is not sure how much is emphasized by the MSBA on a financial or educational decision.

V. Next Steps

Mr. Szymaniak reiterated the next meeting with MSBA is schedule for April 14, 2021. Next, would be to form the project team (module 2) and once approved we would then move forward to Module 3, Feasibility.

The information regarding meetings and information from MSBA will be posted on the District's website to keep the residents and community informed.

VI. Determine next meeting date

The next Building Committee meeting was scheduled for April 26, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

VOTE: Chris Scriven motioned; Dan Cullity seconded; voted by roll call to adjourn the meeting at 5:28 p.m.

Frederick Small – Yes

Daniel Cullity – Yes

Christopher Scriven – Yes

Kerri Sandler – Yes

Crystal Regan – Yes

Robert Curran – Yes

John Galvin – Yes

David Cordero – Yes

Don Esson – Yes

Rich Pulkinen – Yes

Beth Stafford – Yes

Randy LaMattina – Yes

Lincoln Heineman – Yes

The motion passed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lori Wright

Meeting Handouts:

Meeting Agenda – March 22, 2021

Meeting Minutes dated January 11, 2021

MSBA email eligibility period status update dated 3/5/2021

OPM Process Guidelines

MSBA Modules Overview

Module 2 Forming the Project Team