

Minutes of the Steering Committee of the Wayland High School Study Committee (HSSC)

Date: August 12, 2003

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Wayland High School Library

Present: (committee members) Lea Anderson, Josh Bekenstein, Dianne Bladon, Sid Bowen, Joy Buhler (ex officio) , Lori Frieling, Fred Knight, Kim Sklar Reichelt, Rich Stack
(visitors) Joyce Lauer, James Howard

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

The committee viewed the videotape of Wayland High School, which will be broadcast on the Wayland cable channel.

The minutes of the 7/16 meeting were approved.

Subcommittee updates

Structure and Grounds: Sid Bowen reported that his subcommittee has met four times. He discussed the need for broad exposure of the high school's facility shortcomings. He reminded the group that the \$50,000 feasibility study provided funding for a gross level of planning. Specificity in the next planning phase will make the trade-offs more understandable. Sid presented three premises his committee is making: 1. They are not certain about new vs. renovation. Future planning needs to consider program needs, phasing costs, and the effect on students for the two options. 2. Project size needs debate and action. 3. Post SBA requires review of financial reality.

Sid said that there is no low cost solution and waiting for SBA to come back is not a solution. The group had a lengthy discussion on options for the next step. One option might be to request funding in the \$350k - \$400k range to develop two approaches (renovation/new and all new) with a detailed building analysis and a decision to pursue one approach when the costs and trade-offs are known. The other option is to recommend a conceptual development of one or more options at a cost of \$80k - \$120k.

Education Program: Rich Stack reviewed his subcommittee's status on assessing the needs for general classroom space, science space, performing arts, special education, athletics, physical education and wellness, common space and extracurricular, technology, library and media. For each of these topics, his committee is looking at educational requirements, the current state of the facility, facility requirements, and conclusions. He will present benchmarks of major educational program space allocation per student and total space per student for Wayland,

Weston, Reading, Belmont, Sudbury, and Lexington high schools. He will also try to explain the variances in the current space and that recommended in the feasibility study.

Enrollment: Kim Sklar Reichelt reported that her subcommittee is projecting a high school enrollment peaking at 1050 by 2007 and lasting until 2010. The enrollment will decline after that. There is variation in projections in the longer term future. The MAPC predicts a buildout population in Wayland of 17,000 people that would lead to 1300 to 1400 high schoolers, but there is uncertainty as to when that will happen.

Financial: Josh Bekenstein reported that he had spoken with Bob Lentz (chairman of Finance Committee), Bob Hilliard (town finance director), and Paul Keating (town accountant). Josh assured them that the HSSC would not present numbers to the town without conferring with them. Josh also reported that his group is gathering data on construction costs in other towns. The group discussed the twenty year debt limit imposed by Massachusetts law and the unknown likelihood of the legislature relaxing that limit.

Community Relations: Dianne Bladon reported that her group is focused on the tours and community forums coming up on Aug. 26 and Sept. 4. Flyers are being distributed around town and a letter will be sent to community leaders informing them of the upcoming events. There will be no mass mailing. Dianne said that the tours will be very well organized. The purpose of the forums is to gather community reaction and to give people a voice. The group discussed the pros and cons of distributing a survey at the forum.

There was a suggestion to hold a tour for staff members from the elementary and middle schools. The group discussed the need for the Community Relations subcommittee to continue planning for the work to be done after Sept. 15.

Process for group recommendation: Lea Anderson presented a timetable for the next month. It was agreed that the subcommittee chairmen would submit a written summary of their subcommittee's findings by August 22. The Steering Committee will take the subcommittee findings and input from the forums and begin to draft recommendations beginning on August 28 and continuing during the week of Sept. 8. A final recommendation is due to the Wayland School Committee by Sept. 15.

The next meeting of the HSSC Steering Committee will be held on Thursday, Aug. 28.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lea Anderson