

GRAFTON SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

DRAFT

Notes from the Community Open Forum

May 19, 2009 at Grafton Memorial High School

ISSUES OF INTEREST TO PARTICIPANTS

- Solve known school issues. Avoid short-term solution options.
- Provide sufficient athletic fields for school use.
- Consider opportunities for and costs of potential future additions for each site.
- Including the Eighth Grade with the High School is NOT an acceptable as a long term solution
- Consider the civic presence of a new school
- Solicit feedback from non-parents (entire community)
- Characterization and presentation of a new school is important for town-wide approval.
- Desire not to replicate the Newton North HS problem of overspending
- School decision should consider the present economy and tax impacts versus construction cost
- Impacts of the MA-CHPS rating is important for making a decision
- Final solution should consider reducing student loads at the elementary schools
- Design should balance Town's historic perspective of education with the potential for an improved setting.
- Impact of donated lights project at existing track/field must be considered.
- Permitting concerns should be considered
- High School project should benefit the entire community
- Provide sufficient parking for community events at school
- Consider the possibility of providing public use of the following school spaces:
 - * Theatre / Auditorium
 - * Library
 - * Gymnasium/ Athletic Fields/ Other Fitness Areas
 - * Use of building for Summer / Night Programs
 - * Use of building for Adult Education
 - * Pool (?)
- As discussed, consider the opportunities to incorporate the following uses in the building:
 - * Voting
 - * Special Education
 - * Youth Center
 - * Child Development
 - * Senior Center

GENERAL QUESTIONS BY THE PARTICIPANTS

- Can a "campus-style" design, utilizing the existing municipal buildings work? (@ Providence Road)
- What is the process with the MSBA and a Town vote?
- Is an MSBA "model school program" applicable here?
- Why is the Milford Rd. site unavailable?
- Is there sufficient room at Old Westboro Rd. site for the program?
- Can additional Federal or State funding become available by incorporating Green Technology?
- With respect to sustainability, which option is better?

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Site	Providence Road Site <u>Add/Reno High School</u> "Option 1"	Providence Road Site <u>New High School</u> "Option 2"	Old Westboro Road Site <u>New High School</u> "Option 3"
GENERAL ISSUES / IDEAS <i>(Site Specific)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What will the educational interruptions be during construction? Could add/reno include 8th grade to solve elementary school problem? (Option 1b?) Permitting concerns should be considered (<i>Upgrade of existing building</i>) Cost of technology upgrades for Renovation? Existing auditorium and cafeteria are not sufficient for a larger population Parking for community events should be made available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What will the educational interruptions be during construction? Can sufficient athletic fields be located on this site to support the educational program? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growth impacts from water and sewer extension to site Can sufficient athletic fields be located on this site to support the educational program? Permitting concerns should be considered. (<i>Environmental</i>) Is this site really viable, given cost of the unknown conditions? Consider opportunity and cost of additional land acquisition?
PROS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central field location No change in campus location Existing HS building will be upgraded No additional school may mean less total school staff (smaller, perceived operational costs) Sustainable building reuse Able to use existing infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May solve Middle/Elementary School shortage Potential bus sharing with the Middle School Better opportunity for community use Central field location More storage and teacher preparation space Civic presence Campus (civic) unity with Middle School and Municipal Buildings Sustainable site reuse Perceived to be less costly Able to use of existing infrastructure New school can better use Green Technologies Immediate addition to school system (1000 student seats) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doesn't lose any fields May solve Middle/Elementary School shortage New school can better use Green Technologies Site and building could be more easily expanded for growth More isolated site may lead to less traffic congestion Site perceived as centrally located Better opportunity for community use More storage and teacher preparation space School & fields might be all on one site No disruption to existing building Can design site from ground up; few existing conditions to contend with Site is town-owned Immediate addition to school system (1000 student seats)
CONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning disruption due to construction Loss of fields and possible shortage Cost to bring existing HS building up to code Doesn't solve Middle/Elementary School problem Add/Reno may be more costly per building size Limits ability to create an onsite public well Limited available community use Costs for Stormwater/conservation of Lake Ripple 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of fields and possible shortage Costs for Stormwater/conservation of Lake Ripple Over-crowding of site with municipal buildings Will there be enough parking? Traffic congestion caused by an additional school Limits ability to create an onsite public well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic may greatly impact untrafficked area Historic considerations of farmland and roadway Requires Estabrook Road widening & maybe Old Westboro Rd too Sewer & water infrastructure required (not MSBA reimburseable) Acoustic considerations due to Mass Pike Perceived as more costly due to infrastructure, grading, etc Potential ledge and grading costs