

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 untrafficed 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