

Name of Committee: Brookline School Population and Capacity Exploration (B-SPACE)

Meeting Date: June 10, 2013

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: Town Hall,
School Committee Room

Committee Members - present marked with "x"			
Betsy DeWitt	X	Mel Kleckner	X
Alan Morse	X	Philip Kramer	X
George Cole	X	Bill Lupini	X
Katherine Craven		Michael Sandman	X
Lisa Crossley	X	Rebecca Stone	X
Ken Goldstein	X	Neil Wishinsky	X

Alan Morse and Bill Lupini arrived at 7 PM.

Staff Present: Information Technology Staff, Jed Fehrenbach

Topic: Approval of minutes

Minutes of the 6/03/13 meeting were discussed at length. Members asked to hold approval until June 17 in order to draft clearer language describing the different financial issues.

Co-chair DeWitt mentioned the potential impact of a new proposal for additional housing at Hancock Village being submitted by Chestnut Hill Realty. The timeframe is unknown, but, if approved, the project would add 200 units in 3 – 5 years.

Topic: Update on HMFH Consultants

Town Administrator Mel Kleckner reported that the Building Dept. had received proposals from HMFH items: (1) looking at six other K-8 schools (not Devotion or Runkle) for potential space expansion; (2) options for a separate high school with 700+/- students, or a new K-8 for 500 students; (3) possible K-8 or BHS expansion at Old Lincoln School; and 4) possible expansion in the vicinity of BHS. HMFH believes the can complete the work in 6-8 weeks.

Topic: Redistricting Subcommittee Report

Ken Goldstein reported on the Lynch Center location on Brookline Avenue. The Subcommittee met with Town Counsel to review the site, which has a number of limitations, effectively taking it out of consideration:

- The building is a historic property
- Part of the property is protected under Article 97, requiring a 2/3 vote of the Legislature to be released, and a like-kind property must replace whatever is released. However, some parcels of the property at Larz Anderson Park are not Article 97, and could be so designated to provide the like-kind swap.
- The site conditions are more problematic. Part of the property is a flood plain, and requires special drainage if there is construction. The site has soil contamination

from previous industrial use, and would require an environmental study with mandated remediation, adding to the cost as well as to the timeline.

In North Brookline, the subcommittee felt the best location would be Amory Park or the MAB property, which abuts the park.

Neil Wishinsky and Rebecca Stone reported on an additional theoretical model for redistricting to add a new K-8 school in the northeastern part of Brookline. The goals were to respect local neighborhoods as much as possible; to maintain diversity; to equalize student populations relative to facility capacity; to avoid including two sides of a major roadway; and to minimize dislocation. IT staff Jed Fehrenbach demonstrated a GIS map showing a new school district in the northeast corner of Brookline and the cascading impacts on the existing K-8 districts.

There are now three theoretical models for a new school district:

- 1) new school in South Brookline (Baldwin School site);
- 2) new school in Brookline Village (Old Lincoln site); and
- 3) new school in North Brookline (vicinity of Amory Playground).

Each has different impacts on existing district boundaries and the number of families that would need to be reassigned. Overall, the subcommittee feels that the Brookline Village (Old Lincoln site) location is least disruptive, with North Brookline (vicinity of Amory Playground) next, and South Brookline (Baldwin School site) most disruptive. It is important to understand that there are many students attending K-8 schools out of district for a variety of reasons. The effect on the number of families and the mix of income demographics differs from district to district, especially because Runkle and Heath have just been renovated and are not yet full up to their new capacity.

Maps and charts are posted on the B-SPACE website (NOTE: files are in chronological order with oldest first, newest at the end of the list).

http://www.brooklinema.gov/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=1048&limit=80&limitstart=0&order=name&dir=ASC&Itemid=1744

Topic: Brookline High School Expansion Subcommittee Report

Phillip Kramer summarized the BHS HMFH concept study report. This report contained three different concepts:

- 1) convert the Schluntz Gym space to academic space (\$40 million gross of MSBA support if available). Some of the exercise space lost such as a dance studio could not be replaced with MSBA support.
- 2) Replace Tappan Street Gym with an academic use building (\$ 44 million gross of MSBA support if available) Note this alternative eliminates substantial community use of gym facilities during the weekends.
- 3) Renovation of both the Schluntz gym space and a portion of the southeast section of the current BHS structure with new academic space (\$90 million gross of MSBA support if available).

Mr. Kramer also mentioned that the following ideas are being considered: the use of OLS as additional space for BHS (concerns here about the distance and potential scheduling issues);

purchase the Cyprus Street building occupied by a Partners Healthcare Medical group (the cost to purchase likely to be more than the Town could afford); a one acre site across the MBTA tracks (not yet carefully examined); and the possibility of a second high school of 800-900 students located at a different site and differentiated from BHS in program.

Topic: Discussion of June 24 Public Hearing Format

Rebecca Stone indicated that she had not been able to connect with the Kennedy School Professor Dan Levy, who has knowledge of an instant electronic vote casting system. She had hoped to set up such a system to enable the attending public to express an immediate opinion on a variety of space options to be articulated. At this point Ms. Stone recommends that instead the Committee set up a system which 1) will enable the public to write out questions to which the Committee will respond; and 2) develop some questions/issues of its own to use to create an interactive dialogue with the audience. Co-chairmen DeWitt and Morse will meet with Messrs. Kramer and Wishinsky on Friday 6/14 to plan the hearing details including visuals which will be displayed/discussed at the Committee's meeting next Monday 6/17. There will be outreach using many lists to publicize the meeting.

Topic: Plans for the Next Committee Meeting on Monday 6/17

The bulk of the upcoming meeting will be devoted to using Ms. Tsao's CBA system to evaluate the various alternatives available by grading criteria relevant for each factor for each alternative identified three meetings ago. Each Committee member will participate with the aid of Neil Wishinsky who will act as facilitator following some guidance by Ms. Tsao who will be out of Town. The results of this exercise will inform the writing of the report to the School Committee. Since HMFH will not have had time to develop its information it was acknowledged by all that the B-SPACE Committee would make an interim report that will provide guidance to the School Committee by following George Cole's outline, sharing the results of the above mentioned CBA evaluation and identifying the information lacking needed to arrive at a conclusion as to the most promising space plans available.

Once the HMFH information is available, especially on the K-8 expansion scenario, B-SPACE may convene to review the data and update the interim report. It will then be the School Committee's job to complete the analysis and determine their preferred plan.

Committee adjourned at 9:00 p.m.