

Name of Committee: Override Study Committee – Capital Sub-Committee

Meeting Date: January 16, 2014

Time: 8:00a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Meeting Location: Town Hall

Members Present:

X Sergio Modigliani

X Lisa Serafin Sheehan (Chair)

X Carol Levin

X Timothy Sullivan

The meeting was a review of the major findings to-date and a discussion about what additional work was needed.

The major preliminary findings as communicated to the OSC Chairs by Lisa were:

The size of an Override will be determined by the amount of Capital required, which in turn will determine the size of the tax increase needed.

The amount of Capital required is largely determined by the number of new classrooms needed. Currently, the number established by the Schools is 23 additional classrooms by FY '19.

There is no option, other than policy changes, that can provide enough classrooms quickly enough.

The number of new classrooms needed could be reduced through various policy tools. These include changes in School Committee policy concerning one or more of the following:

- Classroom assignment procedures
- METCO program
- Material Fee program
- Class Size policies

Policy changes are controllable and allow predictable capital calculations.

The analysis for the Capital required to address the School system's needs must include consideration of both the K-8 and the High School, though the High School's needs are now under study by the Superintendent, the Headmaster and High School community with results later this year.

The MSBA reimbursement rates of about 35% of project costs in Brookline represent an important source of revenue in helping to defray costs to the Brookline taxpayer. They may also add to the time required to deliver new projects.

Our subcommittee was instructed to accept the expanded Devotion project of 1,010 students as a "train that had already left the station". Accordingly, our work has been limited to evaluating the cost implications of this pre-determined project.

The Old Lincoln School will remain in use as a temporary location for some K-8 students during planned construction periods in the next 3-4 years. It may also serve longer term as part of a solution to the expansion of the High School.

That all future School Committee deliberations concerning programs require that capital considerations be integrated into the decision making process of that body.

Sergio suggested we needed additional discussion about a number of items including the need to better understand the high school assumptions, especially given that the classroom capacity issues noted by HMFH in their 2013 study differed materially (16-20 fewer classrooms) from the similar analysis carried out by MGT in their 2009 Facilities Master Plan. He also suggested a need to better understand how policy choices impact capital needs and the fact that the capital numbers were much smaller than the operating numbers in terms of the total override.

The meeting adjourned.