

**Minutes
of the
Runkle School Renovations and Additions
Community Public Meeting
30 September 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Runkle School Library, 50 Druce Street**

Meeting called to order by Helen Charlupski

H. Charlupski provided opening comments including that this meeting is the third in a series of public community meetings. She noted that the project is planned for 41.58% reimbursement by the MSBA of eligible project costs. She also informed attendees that the MSBA Board had voted its approval of this project with funding at their meeting this morning at the MSBA office.

Bob Vogel of the Design Partnership of Cambridge (DPC) then provided a summary of the process to date of the feasibility/schematic design. He reviewed the schedule up to this point including a list/graphic of all the public meetings held on this project since their firm contracted with the Town. The culmination of this effort at this stage will be the Town Meeting vote in November to approved the project scope and budget moving forward.

Bob Bell of DPC then narrated a slide show of the MSBA approved schematic design including aerial shots of the site as it exists, an aerial shot with the "B" Option superimposed, six schemes of Option "B" that were considered, shadow studies of Options B1 and B2, and the MACHPS scorecard. He described the floor plans in detail.

D. Warner of Warner Larson then described the site including the fact that the design team will be considering how to protect existing plantings and/or relocate them if possible to avoid damage during construction. They will work with the Director of Parks and Open Space and her staff as the design progresses. The plan currently calls for new plantings in the courtyard, play areas and a buffer along the Dean Road side of the site. Behind the building the existing sloped areas will be mitigated with retaining walls. In response to a question, D. Warner provided a chart that showed the square footage of existing open spaces verses what is proposed. In total, open space will be reduced by approximately 13K SF in the current design, but the remaining open space will be better utilized.

The meeting was then opened up to questions and comments from attendees. Bill Lupini addressed questions relative to enrollment at Runkle and district-wide. Questions regarding traffic and parking were responded to by noting the Transportation Department will take up these issues early next year by staff studying the issues, and by seeking input in public meetings.

Concerns about aspects of the project were voiced by some attendees. These included issues of process, schedule, size and/or height of building, etc. Selectman Daly, School Committee member Charlupski and others responded that this has been a thorough and open process in which the Runkle Building Committee solicited the input of all stakeholders. It has been a challenging effort to meet the needs of the School Department relative to program issues and exploding enrollments, budget and schedule issues, neighborhood and abutter concerns, and the regulations of the MSBA, but members of the Runkle Building Committee feel the right balance has been struck.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Guigli, Project Director