**Carver Elementary School Building Committee**

**Monday, June 15th, 2015**

**7:00 P.M.**

**CARVER TOWN HALL – SELECTMEN’S CHAMBERS**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Approved 7/7/15**

1. **Members Present:** Dan Ryan, Mike Milanoski, Andrew Soliwoda, Richard Ward, Sarah Stearns, Peter Gray, John Cotter, Heather Sepulveda, Dave Siedentopf, Liz Sorrell, Ruby Maestas, James O’Brien.
2. **Members Absent: Jon Delli Priscoli**
3. **PMA Present:** Chad Crittenden, Walter Hartley, Chris Carroll.
4. **HMFH Present:** Matt LaRue, Laura Wernick, Devin Canton.
5. **Others Present:** Deb Gesualdo, Cheryl Burr, Jen Kelley, Kerry Agashe, Carolyn Todd, Stephanie Gavin, Kelli Dolan, Caren Sowa, Paula Foley.
6. **Chairman Dick Ward called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.** He then led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.
7. **05-18-15 Meeting Minutes**

Discussion by the committee.

Motion made by Dan Ryan to approve minutes of 5/18//15. Second made by Dave Siedentopf.

Unanimous vote. Sarah Stearns abstained from the vote.

1. **Overview of Meeting Agenda**

Dick Ward gave a brief overview of this evening’s agenda.

1. **Teacher Presentation on the visit to the Christa McAuliffe Elementary School which was designed by HMFH entitled “The Learning Commons”.** Ruby Maestas discussed their recent trip to the Christa McAuliffe Elementary School in Concord, NH. She discussed the learning commons and that a tremendous amount of research has been done. Cheryl Burr and Deb Gesualdo gave a description of what a learning commons is. Slides were shown to the committee. Key note: everything can be moved. Presentation area slide was shown. It could be used for many different things. Advantage of learning commons; slide was shown of a learning common where trumpets were being played by students. Our staff was above behind the glass and could not hear a thing. Hallways were very functional. The natural lighting in these areas was remarkable. The way technology was integrated into the building was also remarkable. The learning commons will be placed strategically throughout the building. Slides of collaboration at our present school were shown to the committee. The vision is of a collaborative environment.

Mr. Ward noted the natural lighting was excellent. Sound was controlled in almost every area. There were a lot of efficiencies there; this was a well-planned building.

1. **Well Updates**

Chad Crittenden noted that lab results are not done yet. JC Engineering is expecting them within a week. They will inform committee as soon as they are received.

JC Engineering will compile the WS13 application. DEP will then review all information submitted. Pumping test needs to be performed.

1. **PSR (Preferred Schematic Report) Update**

Chad spoke about the PSR Update. Conditional approval with four items to be worked on: updated educational plan, further developed floor plans, additional information on MPR, additional information needed on media center/learning commons.

Heather asked if we are in the n Schematic Design Phase. Chad replied that we are contingent upon the four above items being met.

Laura Wernick spoke about the Schematic Design.

Chris Carroll spoke about the Module 4 on the MSBA website. It describes in great detail what the MSBA is looking for.

John Cotter asked about cost savings for model schools. Could we get a letter from MSBA stating that they are not offering model schools of this size? Chad feels that we could get a letter from them stating that they have not approved a model school in five years. Chad will look into that. Mike Milanoski noted some changes in staffing at MSBA. Their concern is financing of these projects.

Matt LaRue discussed the two most recent floor plans of the building. They are in next steps of Schematic Design. They are working on the comments that MSBA has made. Learning commons has been explored more. He showed an updated floor plan. There will be three wings; two stories each. Wings will be separate from the public areas of the building. Learning commons would be shared between the three wings. Wing area could be closed off from the public. There will be exterior access to gymnasium. A slide was shown of the site plan.

The next slide showed the distribution of the learning commons.

Dan asked how many areas are for group areas? Does centralized one have more areas? Matt replied that the first option has one leaning common per grade. The centralized one is more flexible. James asked about square footage? Is it the same? Matt replied yes. Cafeteria location..he likes second idea where grouped. Concerns with the flow of traffic to cafeteria. Matt discussed possibility of moving gym to other side of building. This would help with traffic. James like the learning commons in the wings rather than being a shared space.

Ruby sees advantages to both. Distributed learning commons-there are focused areas for each grade level. The distributed area allows for a lot more use in the grade level. Paula Foley is concerned about the flow of students to the different areas. Michelle feels distributed learning commons is best for us. Laura added this option would only hold 1 class at a time.

Liz talked about MPR. Whole grade levels could use this as a grade level learning commons.

Heather likes the distributed learning. Concerned with traffic flow. She likes the idea of one gym and one cafeteria.

Richard asked about gym, with there be a partition? Yes, there will be two teaching spaces. Two youth events could happen simultaneously. Liz added that all special areas will be occupied all day. It is a very efficient use of the space.

Dan Ryan asked if the Christ McAuliffe School was centralized? Yes it was. Laura added that this was a much smaller school and all classrooms could fit around the learning commons. Liz added that the distributed model can be tailored to kindergarten.

Michelle Taylor noted that there were other areas in addition to the centralized learning commons.

James O’Brien commented on the display areas throughout the building. He thought this was great.

Richard Ward talked about the reading silo. He found that interesting.

Michael Milanoski – cost. What is the cost differential between this design and the first more consolidated design (that was first approved). Laura replied that the square footage is the same; there is some consolidation; roof areas are very similar. The cost will need to be part of their analysis. This is part of the process.

John Cotter, educational direction. How old is the learning commons idea? Laura replied Christa McAuliffe School is finishing its third year. Laura added that learning commons haven been happening at elementary schools; it has evolved from the college/university level. This has been happening for several years. John asked if there was any research about MCAS scores going up in schools having these learning commons. She feels there isn’t any research to show higher MCAS schools.

Mike Milanoski is concerned how we can do this within budget.

Liz replied to John that students learn best using collaboration. MCAS scores improve if students take charge of their own learning.

James added about differentiation. Smaller areas allow for different learning at different areas.

Richard asked Chad what MSBA’s take on learning commons. Chad replied that MSBA is just looking to understand the learning commons.

Richard asked if parents had any comments on these learning commons? None.

1. **Schedule/General Update**

Next Steps

MSBA Key Dates Slide. Chad discussed this.

Detailed schedule slide. On track for breaking ground next fall as long as vote is positive by Town.

Heather asked about voting. Do we go to Town meeting first and then to ballot? Mike Milanoski replied that it could go as early as mid-December.

Chad asked if it could be put on ballot prior to MSBA meeting? Michael replied yes. But are we going to have proper information out there for the public. He feels during October, we could get dates for ballot etc. confirmed.

Liz added that we are headed into a primary in January. She doesn’t feel that would be a good idea. She feels before the holidays would be best.

Chance Court Residents meeting? Liz spoke with Tom Walsh, who spoke with their Board of Trustees. They would like a visual of what it would look like. They would like to look at it and ask questions of us at a committee or on paper. Matt LaRue replied that original target date would be a good time for that…early July.

Richard Ward felt a representative from this board should be sent to the mobile home parks throughout the Town. Is this a good idea to do? The representative wouldn’t have any figures. James feels there will be a lot of questions that we won’t have answers to. James suggested more of an information gathering meeting and bringing back questions/concerns to committee. He feels outreach is so important. Mike feels this would be great to do.

Any questions? None.

Chad spoke about past presentations are on website now.

1. **New Business**

Should the CESBC consider inviting the Office of Campaign and Political Finance to give their standard workshop on what is and what is not allowed regarding the ballot question for a new school? Heather feels this would be good to have done again. Laura feels it is very worthwhile; very helpful. Can we include this in one of our meetings? Yes. Liz will call and see what days they have available.

Next Meeting: 7/7/15 (Tuesday) and 7/20/15 (Monday). Ethics on 7/20? Liz will find out.

Motion made by Dan Ryan to adjourn meeting at 8:50 pm. Second by John Cotter.

Unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted.

Kelly Yenulevich

Recording Secretary

Carver School Building Committee