

**CABOT SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE (CSBC) +
DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC) JOINT MEETING**

MEETING MINUTES

Newton Education Center, Room 304

February 24, 2015

7:30PM



ATTENDEES:

NAME	ASSOC.	VOTING	PRESENT	NAME	ASSOC.	VOTING	PRESENT
Margaret Albright	SC	✓	Y	Peter Barrer	DRC	✓	N
Susan Albright	BOA	✓	N	Arthur Cohen	DRC	⊘	Y
Mary Lou DiBella	CSBC	✓	Y	William Eldredge	DRC	✓	N
Diana Fisher Gomberg	CSBC	✓	Y	Robert A. Franchi	DRC	✓	N
David Fleishman	CSBC	⊘	N	Tom Gloria	DRC	✓	Y
Ruthanne Fuller	BOA	✓	Y	James Freas	DRC	⊘	N
Sandra Guryan	NPS	✓	Y	Jonathan Kantar	DRC	⊘	Y
Matt Hills	CSBC	⊘	N	Andrea Kelley	DRC	✓	N
Maureen Lemieux	CSBC	⊘	N	Ellen S. Light	DRC	✓	Y
Joshua Morse	NPB	✓	Y	Marc Resnic	DRC	⊘	Y
Emily Norton	BOA	✓	Y	Scott Ross	DRC	✓	N
Cynthia Paris Jeffries	CSBC	✓	N	Steven Siegel	DRC	⊘	Y
Angela Pitter-Wright	CSBC	✓	Y	Eve Tapper	DRC	✓	N
Nicholas Read	CSBC	⊘	N	Carol Chaftez	NPS	⊘	Y
John Rice	BOA	⊘	N	Dennis Murphy	ACS	⊘	N
Andrea Steenstrup	CSBC	✓	Y	Jeffery Luxenberg	JLA	⊘	Y
Alex Valcarce	NPB	⊘	Y	Tom Murphy	JLA	⊘	Y
Setti Warren	Mayor	⊘	N	Kiersten Mailer	JLA	⊘	Y
Karen Wasserman	CSBC	✓	N	Ken DiNisco	DDP	⊘	N
Dori Zalenik	CSBC	✓	Y	Donna DiNisco	DDP	⊘	Y
Michael Cronin	NPS	⊘	Y	Leno Filippi	DDP	⊘	Y
Ouida Young	ACS	⊘	N	Bob Derubeis	NPR	⊘	Y
				Julie Kirrane	NPS	⊘	Y

Newton Public Schools called the meeting to order at 7:35PM.

1. Agenda
 - a. The meeting began with a brief review of the agenda.
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - a. **MOTION:** A. Pitter-Wright motioned to approve minutes from 1/15. The motion was seconded by L. DiBella. Voting results: **UNANIMOUS** (10 -0-0)

3. Review & Vote to Submit Preferred Design Program (PDP) to MSBA

- a. JLA reminded the Committee of the two distinct submittals to the MSBA during the Feasibility phase: The Preferred Design Program (PDP) and the Preferred Schematic Report. The PDP contains the program and space summary documents, which were reviewed with the SBC at a previous meeting and were recently approved by the School Committee. The PDP also contains general information about the existing conditions of the Cabot School which were reviewed at a previous meeting as well as the status of the concept design review. A conference call was recently held with the MSBA, the OPM and design team and the City. The MSBA noted that drawings of the concepts under review were not required to be included with the PDP submittal. The current status of the Criteria Matrix was distributed along with a brief narrative summary of the concepts for Committee review. JLA reported that the PDP was scheduled to be submitted to the MSBA this week, pending SBC approval. In response to a question about the expectations of MSBA approval of the program and space summary JLA noted that they would anticipate that the MSBA may have questions that would need to be responded to.
- b. The Preferred Schematic report would be the following submittal to the MSBA and that submittal is scheduled for April 16, 2015 in anticipation of the June 3, 2015 MSBA Board of Directors meeting. It was discussed that this was an aggressive schedule and may not be achievable. If the date is not met the team would plan to meet the next MSBA Board of Directors meeting, which is July 29, 2015.
- c. **MOTION:** D. Zalenik moved to approve the PDP submittal as described and presented at previous SBC meeting. Motion was seconded by D. Fisher Gomberg. Voting results: **UNANIMOUS (10-0-0)**

4. Review of Concept Developments

- a. DiNisco presented several concepts of different design options for Addition + Renovation, New Construction, and New Construction with Partial Renovation in order for the committee to provide feedback.
- b. The focus was on the building only, to review the overall spatial relationships and adjacencies. The site and vehicular circulation would be evaluated separately from the building design for this presentation.
- c. See the DiNisco presentation at <http://cabot.projects.joslinlessner.com/presentations>
- d. DiNisco voiced that all of the add/reno schemes are roughly the same total square footage, which is larger than the new schemes. All schemes accommodate the educational program. Some of the primary differences between the schemes presented were horizontal vs. vertical circulation, the location of Kindergarten classrooms and the location of the more public spaces such as the gym and cafetorium. It was also noted that the gym will be able to accommodate the whole school for school-wide assemblies.
- e. When questions about communication with abutting property owners arose, it was noted that Sandy Guryan and Maureen Lemieux intend to meet with abutters prior to the Public Forum scheduled for 3/11 to introduce the project to them. It was also noted that all schemes will work effectively on the current site and that inclusion of other properties was not currently under consideration.
- f. Comment from L. DiBella: Ideally, Kindergarten classrooms would be integrated with other grades and not isolated on the first floor. Spaces used for the Extended Day

program should be kept on the first floor and preferably together for security and access reasons. Having the gym backed up to the cafeteria would benefit Extended Day but it is not necessary to the daily school program.

- g. Some members felt that the core spaces in option B2 and the gym orientation were less desirable than other schemes. When questioned about specific aesthetics of the various schemes DiNisco noted that all could be successful from that perspective. There were many people who liked B3; particularly the North-South classroom orientation, but questioned the inclusion of a courtyard.
- h. After considerable discussion it was requested that DiNisco further explore schemes A1 and A3 for renovation/addition and Schemes B1 and B3 for new construction. Scheme C, showing façade restoration with new construction was discussed and determined that it may be developed and evaluated at a further date.

5. Site Parking Schemes

- a. DiNisco presented 3 site plans that were presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission for their input on Monday night. A brief summary of that meeting reported that the general comments from the Commission indicated that minimal disruption of current playing fields would be preferable. A further meeting and presentation will be scheduled with the Commission.

6. Overall Feasibility Study Schedule

- a. JLA reviewed current feasibility study schedule including the Preferred Schematic Submission.

7. Other Business

- a. No other business at this time.

8. Upcoming Meetings

a.	3/05/15	Cabot Working Group	8:30AM	Location TBD
b.	3/11/15	Public Forum	7:00PM	Cabot School
c.	3/12/15	CSBC + DRC Joint Meeting	6:00PM	Ed Center room 210
d.	3/26/15	Cabot Working Group	8:30AM	Location TBD
e.	4/06/15	BOA + SC Joint Meeting	7:45PM	City Hall Ald. Chambers
f.	4/09/15	CSBC + DRC Joint Meeting	7:30PM	Ed Center Room 210

9. Public Comments

- a. There were no public comments

10. Meeting Adjournment

9:50PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kiersten Mailler
Joslin, Lesser + Associates, Inc.

[End of 2/24/15 Meeting Minutes]