

November 2010 - Update

High School Building Committee

November 1, 2010

Once again, the month of October proved to be very successful yet challenging as we worked to complete the educational programming portion of the project.

What is educational programming? It refers to that part of the school design that requires a specific allotment of spaces for specific programs. These spaces are the classrooms, auditorium, gym, science labs, custodial rooms, etc., that make up the inside of the school. The HSBC has submitted its final version of the educational programming to the MSBA and awaits the MSBA's final approval.

Simultaneously, the HSBC has been working on the overall site design, determining the costs versus the benefits and what must be done in order to meet various codes.

In October, the HSBC realized that the building/project size had to be reduced from an earlier projection. There were two reasons for this, equal in importance: first, was to meet the specifications of the MSBA and second, to present a project that the town could support. For the HSBC, this presented a complicated and delicate process. There was the need to develop an appropriate building that would provide our students with a facility that could serve their educational needs for the next 50 years, while keeping in mind the financial situation of the town and its residents.

During this last month, there have been many discussions with the MSBA and the HSBC has agreed upon a final draft of the project that every member of the committee supports. We believe the end result will be a project that the community can be proud of should they decide to support it at the Special Town Meeting on February 7 and the ballot vote on February 12.

Additionally, the HSBC has also been actively working on a "maintenance plan" for the schools as we move forward, believing that it may be best to approach this issue as a community. Therefore, we have discussed partnering with the town in this effort as a way to increase efficiencies.

As the date of approval from the MSBA approaches, we continue to fine-tune the project with community input and determine ways in which this project can benefit the entire town.

Please join with the HSBC and consider what you can do to help this project meet with success! Thank you for your interest and support.

Cordially,
High School Building Committee