

High School Building Committee September 2010 – Update

The HSBC hopes that everyone had a great summer. It is hard to believe that it is September already. The last month has been an extremely busy and productive month and we have much to report.

Over the last number of weeks the committee advertised for the position of Owner's Project Manager, a requirement of the school building process and participated in interviews for that position along with interviews for a designer. The Owner's Project Manager becomes the Town's resource through the entire project of the school building process. This firm will act to guide the Town through the process with such things as designer selection, building design, building systems, procurement, preconstruction activities, construction, etc. The designer is the architectural firm who will work with the community in the site location, building design, educational programming, site design and construction. Additionally, whereas the Town has chosen the "Model School Program" the committee has visited model schools across the state, ultimately selecting a model school for the Town of East Bridgewater. During the month of August the High School Building Committee adopted the following selections:

- Owner's Project Manager-R F Walsh Collaborative Partners
- Ai3 Architects
- Whitman-Hanson Model School

As was presented at Town Meeting, it is the intent of this project to incorporate grades 7-12 into the new school building. The community has presented to the committee its concerns with the grade reconfiguration and separation, in particular with the separation of the grades 7 and 8 from 9-12. The committee has been working vigorously on this issue and we believe we have, with the assistance of our architect Ai3 arrived at an exciting conceptual plan that will successfully accomplish this grade separation.

As you may know another issue presented to the committee is the site selection for the new school. The two sites under consideration are behind the current high school and Leland Farm. The committee has been studying this issue including the benefits or challenges with each site. Within this review the committee has maintained its focus that this is a community project and therefore we feel that whichever site is selected, when all things are considered, should serve the community in the best possible way.

On September 13, 2010 at 7:00 pm the High School Building Committee will hold a public hearing in the high school library to hear the report on the two sites from the designer and seek public input. Your attendance and participation in this hearing is welcome and appreciated.

The committee is heavily engaged at this time in working with the various firms on the following projects:

- Educational Programming/Space Planning
- Building Design
- Building Systems
- Site Planning, Traffic and Parking
- Utilities, Storm water and Sanitary
- Athletic Fields

The work being done on these major systems is somewhat intense and time critical. The committee is pleased to report that we are making good progress and anticipate public input and participation in the coming weeks.

We are also working on the addition of a new and interactive web site for the community. One feature of this web site that we believe will be helpful to both the community and the committee will be a section entitled, “frequently asked questions”. This is one way you could help the committee. Please consider taking a moment and sending us your questions so that we may both answer the questions you have, but also post these questions as others may have the same questions.

The High School Building Committee has been invited to the Commercial Club on September 30, 2010 from 6 – 9 pm to attend a community night being sponsored by abettercommunity@hotmail.com. At this event the HSBC will make a presentation of our progress, including an exciting conceptual design.

The HSBC thanks the community for their support of this project as we continue to work towards the presentation of this effort to the town. The approximate schedule for these presentations is as follows:

- February 7, 2011-Special Town Meeting to Authorize the Project
- February 12, 2011-Special Ballot Vote to Authorize Funding
- Late summer 2011-Ground Breaking

Again thank you for your interest in this project and please do not hesitate to send your questions or comments to the HSBC through the link on the school website.

Sincerely,
HSBC