

Amesbury Elementary School Building Committee (AESBC)

Date:	Thursday, September 5, 2019
Location:	Amesbury High School Library
Time:	3:30 PM
Next Meeting:	10/10/2019 at 4:00 PM



	Name	Association/Title	Affiliation
N	<i>Kenneth Gray</i>	<i>Mayor of Amesbury, Chair</i>	<i>(AESBC)</i>
Y	<i>Peter Hoyt</i>	<i>Amesbury School Committee</i>	<i>(AESBC)</i>
Y	<i>Jared Fulgoni</i>	<i>Superintendent of Schools</i>	<i>(AESBC)</i>
Y	<i>Joan Liporto</i>	<i>Director of Business & Operations</i>	<i>(AESBC)</i>
N	<i>Walter Helliesen</i>	<i>Principal, Amesbury Elementary School</i>	<i>(AESBC)</i>
Y	<i>Joe McMilleon</i>	<i>City Councilor</i>	<i>(AESBC)</i>
N	Norm Fredette	School Facilities	(AESBC)
N	Laurie McAllister	CES Teacher	(AESBC)
N	Cristin Chabot	AES Teacher	(AESBC)
N	Bruce McBrien	AES Teacher	(AESBC)
N	Mark Roccogrande	Parent / Community Member	(AESBC)
Y	Monique Griffin	Parent / Community Member	(AESBC)
N	John Donnell	Community Member	(AESBC)
N	Jim Queenan	AES Teacher	(AESBC)
N	Kyle Jacques	AES Teacher	(AESBC)
N	Daniel Grayton	Mayor's Communications Director	(City)
Y	Donna DiNisco	Principal/DiNisco Design	(DiNisco)
N	Chris Huston	Designer/DiNisco Design	(DiNisco)
N	Vivian Low	Project Manager / DiNisco Design	(DiNisco)
N	Caulen Finch	Project Architect / DiNisco Design	(DiNisco)
N	Tom Murphy	Project Executive / NV5	(NV5)
Y	Lynn Stapleton	Project Director / NV5	(NV5)
N	Jennifer Carlson	Project Manager / NV5	(NV5)
N	Tim Dorman	Project Manager / NV5	(NV5)

1. Call to Order

Superintendent Fulgoni called the Amesbury Elementary School Building Committee (AESBC) Meeting to order at 3:45 PM. A quorum was present.

2. Meeting Minutes

NV5 distributed the AESBC Meeting Minutes from the prior meeting held on June 20, 2019.

Motion: Motion by Peter Hoyt, seconded by Joe McMilleon to approve the 6/20/19 AESBC Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously. Vote: 4, 0, 0

3. Invoices

June - August 2019 Invoices

The following invoices were submitted for approval:

DiNisco Design Invoice #9146 - \$66,667.00

DiNisco Design Invoice #9165 - \$66,665.00

Motion: Motion to approve the above Invoices made by Joan Liporto, seconded by Peter Hoyt to approve the invoices totaling \$133,332.00. The motion passed unanimously. Vote: 4, 0, 0

4. Update on MSBA Board Approval and Project Funding Agreement

- a. The MSBA Board approved the Project Scope and Budget for the new Amesbury Elementary School on August 28, 2019. Mayor Gray and Superintendent Fulgoni both spoke to the MSBA Board on behalf of the City/District.
- b. The MSBA Board Action Letter was received on September 4, 2019 which officially formalized MSBA's approval of the project.
- c. DiNisco provided the City/District with their hard copy of the Schematic Design Submission and was asked to provide an electronic file of the submission for posting on the Project Website.
- d. It was noted that the Project Scope and Budget Agreement with the MSBA was signed.

5. Community Forum

- a. It was noted that Superintendent Fulgoni and Donna DiNisco just completed a TV segment on the proposed new Amesbury Elementary School project.
- b. A date for Community Forum No. 7 was discussed and scheduled for September 30, 2019 at 7:00 PM.
- c. It was noted that several candidates for election were misrepresenting the facts, the MSBA process and that renovation is cheaper.
- d. It was decided that a Frequently Asked Questions handout should be provided to provide the facts on the project. The following questions were discussed:
 - 1) Is the new school going to be on Woodsom Farm? No. Only a 24-wide access drive will cross the corner of the Woodsom Farm property.
 - 2) What happens if the project does not pass? Inaction is not an option. The City will still need to spend money to repair the existing Amesbury Elementary School. The school's building systems and the modulars are well beyond their useful life and need replacement. The school is not fully accessible nor is it compliant with current codes, both of which will have to be rectified per state law once repairs and replacements are implemented if they exceed 30% of the assessed value. The costs for repairs have been presented to be \$34.5 million with no MSBA participation. The existing school will need to continue to be used for at least 10 more years until a second attempt at approval and the resulting school would be available. It is important to note that there will be no programmatic or educational benefit or increased capacity provided with a repair project to the existing school.
 - 3) What happens with MSBA if the project does not pass? The State will redirect its funds to other communities as the need for State assistance is significant throughout the State. MSBA can only fund a small percentage of the need on a yearly basis. The City would then lose \$23,942,384 up to \$24,466,254 million in funding. At the time of MSBA's approval, Amesbury Elementary School was one of 23 approved out of 93 submitted. The City/District will need to re-start the process. It has taken 4 years to get to this point and it took 3 attempts to get into the MSBA pipeline. The District can only submit for consideration once a year.
 - 4) Will there be water infiltration into the Cashman School or abutting properties? No, all stormwater will be managed during and after construction as required by law and will not disturb the Cashman Elementary School or abutting properties. A Storm Water Pollution & Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be developed as a requirement of the Permit. The purpose of a SWPPP is to help the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) preserve and improve storm water quality and discharge and to ensure development on sites do not impact the site where development is occurring or abutting properties.
 - 5) What are the costs of starting over? The City will be responsible for all costs to start over.

6) Why isn't the school being built on the existing Amesbury Elementary School site? Construction on the existing Amesbury Elementary School site was more costly and more disruptive to students. Phased construction would have been required which would have taken longer.

7) How have you kept the public informed about this project? All School Building Committee Meetings are public and posted in advance in accordance with Open Meeting Laws. We have had six Community Forums in which the public has been informed of the process. There is a Project Website where all School Building Committee documentation can be found and where all submittals to the Massachusetts School Building Authority are located.

8) How much is the State going to pay for this project? The total cost of the project is \$60,513,570. The State, acting through the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), has committed to reimburse the City from between \$23,942,384 and up to \$24,466,254 of project costs if contingencies are used. Included in the \$60.5 million total cost is \$2.7 million in contingencies and \$320,000 in reserved costs. The contingency funds will not be utilized except for unforeseen conditions. Remaining unused contingency funds will directly reduce the City's share of the costs.

9) What will happen to the existing Amesbury Elementary School if the new school passes? The Mayor will form a Committee to review the future use of the existing Amesbury Elementary School building.

10) How will the City pay for this project? In order to bond the City's share of project costs, voters will need to approve a Debt-Exclusion Vote on October 8, 2019. This differs from a Proposition 2-1/2 override as this is a temporary tax increase and not a permanent tax increase. The debt exclusion vote is for the sole purpose of constructing a new Amesbury Elementary Schools. The increase in taxes will be specific to this school project and temporary in nature (25 year bond). At the end of the bond repayments, the tax increase related to this school project will be removed. The tax increase will begin with small increases that will ramp up to the full tax impact around year 2022. At the peak, the average maximum tax impact will be approximately \$370 per year for average single-family household with a home value of \$400,000. This equates to approximately \$1 per day.

11) Will families who currently walk to the existing Amesbury Elementary School have to pay bus fees to be transported to the new site at the Cashman Elementary School? Yes. However, with the new location at the Cashman Elementary School site, there will be a reduction in bus routes.

12) Are abutters in support? Yes and Police, Fire, Buildings, Board of Health, etc. have all approved of the location.

e. DiNisco provided 5 sets of presentation boards showing the new AES for the City/District to display around the City.

6. Project Meeting Schedules

SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE: The Amesbury Elementary School Building Committee (AESBC) will meet monthly, targeting the 4th Thursday of each month at the new time of 4:00 PM. The next AESBC Meeting will be held on October 10, 2019 after the October 8, 2019 citywide vote on the project.

Next Community Forum: September 30, 2019 @ 7:00 PM

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

9. Adjournment

Peter Hoyt made a motion, seconded by Mayor Gray, to adjourn the AESBC Meeting 4:34 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

These meeting minutes were prepared by NV5. Please notify NV5 within 48 hours of receipt of this document regarding any required corrections or clarifications.