

**SECTION F**

**FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT**

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## **FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

The School Committee believes that any educational program is influenced greatly by the environment in which its functions. The development of a quality educational program and school facilities that help to implement the program must go hand in hand.

Therefore, it is the School Committee's goal to provide the facilities needed for the number of students in the school system, and to provide the kind of facilities that will best support and accommodate the educational program.

In planning facilities, the School Committee recognizes that priorities must be established to make the best use of capital outlay funds. The School Committee's first objective will be to develop a plan that eliminates overcrowding and minimizes the need for extended day programs and double sessions. Whenever possible, the cultural as well as educational needs of the community will be considered in planning facility expansions.

Architects retained by the School Committee are expected to plan for simplicity of design; sound economics, including low long-range maintenance costs and efficiency in energy needs; low insurance rates; high educational use; and flexibility.

LEGAL REF.:           603 CMR 26:07

## **FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

### Facilities

- (1) Every new school which is to be constructed and every addition to an existing school or program for modernization of an existing school shall be designed or planned so as to ensure that the educational opportunities to be offered within that school following its construction, expansion or reconstruction will be available equally to all students thereof without regard to the race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, disability or national origin of any such student.
- (2) The goal of each school shall be to provide males and females with equal facilities and conveniences within a school which are separated for reasons of privacy, e.g. showers, locker rooms, changing rooms, toilets and lavatories. Any school to be constructed shall make such provision and any plan for the expansion or modernization of an existing school shall include whatever provision is necessary in order to achieve compliance with 603 CMR 26.07.

LEGAL REF.:           603 CMR 26:07

## **FACILITIES PLANNING**

### School Building Committee

The Town Meeting approves the formulation of a School Building Committee for specific building projects. The Building Committee members are appointed by the Town Moderator.

The school building committee has the following responsibilities:

1. To study and make recommendations to the town with respect to school building needs.
2. To review thoroughly with the Superintendent and the School Committee the educational requirements in relation to school buildings.
3. To review previous studies and initiate needed studies with or without consultative assistance.
4. To employ the services of architects and cost estimators and such other professional assistance as it may deem necessary.

### Staff Planning

Arrangements will be made by the Superintendent, working through Principals, for the school staff to contribute in the planning of new school buildings. Teachers will be given the opportunity to submit suggestions for possible inclusion in the educational specifications.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:37C and D; 71:68; 71:70  
Massachusetts Board of Education Regulations Governing the School Building Assistance Act  
Chapter 645 of the Acts of 1948 as amended, FY 79  
Board of Education 603 CMR 38:00 and 603 CMR 26:07

## **RETIREMENT OF FACILITIES**

When a school building becomes inadequate by virtue of age, condition, size of site, lack of need, or other overriding limitations, and cannot reasonably and economically be brought up to the current educational standards, the building should be considered for a comprehensive closing study. The Superintendent will recommend to the School Committee, which facilities appear to justify further analysis.

The School Committee may seek both professional advice and the advice of the community in making its recommendations as to the retirement of any school facility. This will permit the public, which originally acquired the property, to benefit from its recycling or retirement.

A closing study will include direct involvement by those neighborhoods considered in the study and will be concerned with all or some of the following factors:

1. Age and current physical condition of the facilities, its operating systems, and program facilities
2. Adequacy of site, location, access, surrounding development, traffic patterns, and other environmental conditions
3. Reassignment of children, including alternative plans according to Committee policy
4. Transportation factors, including numbers of children bussed, time, distance, and safety
5. Alternative uses of the building
6. Cost/Savings
  - a. Personnel
  - b. Plant Operation
  - c. Transportation
  - d. Capital Investment
  - e. Alternative Use
7. Continuity of instructional and community programs

## NAMING OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS OR FACILITIES

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance when naming a school, district building, major portion of a building or grounds.

### GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The school district recognizes that when more than one school building, portions of school buildings (media center, auditorium, fields, etc.) and/or building grounds are established, it will have defined official names to distinguish each facility.
- B. The school district recognizes that the name shall encourage unification of all of the stakeholders of the community and have equal relevance to all.
- C. The school district recognizes that the process to name the school building, major portion of a building or school grounds include participation of the community.

### PHILOSOPHY

- A. The naming of school buildings, major portions of a building or school grounds is the responsibility of the School Committee.
- B. In fulfilling the responsibility of naming school property, the Committee will make every effort to obtain community input and to consider community preferences.
- C. The name will be clearly identifying, widely known and recognized.
- D. The purpose of the name will be to unify the population of that region and will have equal relevance for all.
- E. The name should include a definition of function such as elementary, middle school, district office, etc.
- F. The name may reflect geographical landmarks.
- G. If a major portion of a building or school grounds is proposed to be named after an individual, that person shall have attained local or national prominence via significant contributions in any field of endeavor. Such contributions of the significance of their place in history shall be clearly established beyond the generation of contribution. Individuals so recognized shall no longer be active in his/her career. Further, the individual for whom a portion of a school building or school grounds is named must be shown to have broad-based, long term impact to the school district.
- H. The acceptance of a contribution will not be the sole condition of the naming of school buildings and school grounds.
- I. It is the intent of the School Committee that the naming of portions of the building and school grounds will occur infrequently and on a limited basis.
- J. Every effort will be made to name the school buildings as close as possible to the time of construction beginning in order to lessen the confusion about the new school.

### PROCEDURE

- A. The School Committee shall formally identify the need for a naming process for the identified school locations as well as the criteria it wishes to be considered.
- B. The Superintendent or his/her designee will establish an ad hoc committee to bring forth name recommendations for consideration by the Committee. The ad hoc committee will be comprised of the Superintendent or designee, the building Principal, faculty members, parents, community members, and, if appropriate, students.

- C. Opportunities for public input must be available prior to the ad hoc committee's recommendation to the School Committee. The opportunities must be announced in the district's official newspaper and on the district website.
- D. The ad hoc committee shall propose a list of names to the School Committee of not more than three (3) names for Committee consideration.

APPROVED: June 27, 2006

REVISED: June 11, 2013

