

BELMONT MIDDLE and HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE
FINAL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 4, 2021
Virtual Zoom Meeting
8:00 AM

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA

DATE: February 23, 2021
TIME: 2:58 PM

Meeting #114

Committee Members Virtually Attending:

Chair Lovallo; Members, Tom Caputo, Mike McAllister, Ellen Schreiber, Joel Mooney, Kate Bowen, Jamie Shea, John Phelan, Pat Bruschi, Diane Miller, Bob McLaughlin, Patrice Garvin, Emma Thurston (joined late)

BPS Director of Technology: Steve Mazzola

Edvance Technology Consultant: Doug Faria

From Daedalus: Tom Gatzunis, Sandra Saccone, Tony DelGreco, Donald White, Justin Ferdenzi

From Perkins+Will: Vital Albuquerque, Brian Spangler, Patrick Cunningham, Christina Strid, Jennifer Miller, Lizzy Dame, Evan Wang (joined late)

From Skanska: Mike Loring

Members Absent: Jay Marcotte, Chris Messer, Joe DeStefano

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chair Lovallo. He explained the remote meeting protocol, e.g., a roll call will be taken, state your name before speaking, mute computers, and he explained how the Committee will vote, etc. Meeting materials will be posted on the BMHSBC website, shortly after the meeting. He also advised residents that they can click into the meeting during resident comment time by pressing #9.

Chair Lovallo took attendance via roll call, reviewed the agenda, and then discussed the first item on the agenda; scheduling of future meetings. He noted that Thursdays mornings are difficult for many committee members as a result of town-wide financial planning meetings. Chair Lovallo said he will book March and April meetings for Fridays. Tentative meeting dates are Friday, March 12 and Friday, April 9.

Concerning the project, he said that there are no delays: the start date for the first day of school is consistent for the plan to open the building immediately after Labor Day – which is the traditional first day of school. With regard to costs, the project is on budget: \$295M is still the budget. Ms. Schreiber noted that the teachers arrive before the students and Chair Lovallo responded that this is expected and is fine.

II. Next Building Committee Meetings

FINAL

Thursday	Feb. 11, 2021	at 8:00 a.m.	Virtual	[115]
Friday	March 12, 2021	at 8:00 a.m.	Virtual	[116]
Friday	April 9, 2021	at 8:00 a.m.	Virtual	[117]

III. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Ms. Bowen had suggested (via email) an adjustment to the Minutes; Chair Lovallo read her proposed adjustment aloud. Ms. Schreiber requested that the word “stackable” be removed concerning the cafeteria chairs. Chair Lovallo stated that both proposed adjustments would be made.

Ms. Bruschi moved: To approve the Minutes of 1/21/21, as amended.
The motion passed unanimously, by those present at the meeting.

IV. Technology Update

Mr. Albuquerque introduced Mr. Faria who is the consultant that works with Perkins and Will on technology. Mr. Faria began by reviewing the agenda for the technology presentation. He discussed the Processes concerning infrastructure, equipment, and a state-of-the-art integrated technology system. He noted that meetings began last year with the School Leadership and building project Design teams. He then reviewed the classroom technology, including placement of speakers (ceiling), LED lighting, and computer screens. Mr. Mazzola spoke to the two different panels for the screens that have been used in the high school this year (in trying out the different panel styles).

Mr. Faria continued to explain various features of the classroom technology, e.g., docking, data patch cords, podiums, intercom speakers, etc. He reviewed the specialized areas: music lab, digital art, maker spaces (e.g., engineering, robotics, physics, etc.), theater and performing arts, and more. He then reviewed core equipment including wireless networks and handsets. He provided an overview of the district’s connectivity and redundancy.

Next, Mr. Faria summarized the technology budget line items, e.g., core equipment, fiber, network, wireless, classroom hardware, staff computing devices, printers, etc. The technology budget estimate is currently \$3.19M which is about \$81.8K under budget. This balance will go into the technology contingency fund. Chair Lovallo clarified that \$50K was transferred to FFE as several technology-related items were purchased this year and funded from another source.

Committee members asked questions about the technology presentation and budget. Mr. Mazzola and Mr. Faria provided responses.

Mr. Faria then explained the two phases of procurement for the middle and high school. He reviewed vendor purchasing, state contracts, as well as technology installation. Concerning the schedule, he reviewed highlights concerning both Phases 1 and 2; he explained what will occur over the next several months and through August 2023.

Chair Lovallo thanked Mr. Faria and Mr. Mazzola for their countless hours of work in developing this education technology plan.

V. Approval of Technology Bid Scope and Budget

FINAL

Ms. Bowen moved: To approve the technology bid scope slate of equipment and the budget presentation package as well as the procurement procedure, as presented.
The motion passed unanimously, by those present at the meeting.

VI. Interior Paint Color Review

Chair Lovallo began by stating that various colors are woven throughout the building. He noted that he did hear concerns from some Committee members following the last walk-through. Mr. Albuquerque quickly reviewed various color schemes throughout the building. Accent colors, he stressed, relate to many color touchpoints, e.g., carpet, ceiling, counters, trim, etc. It is difficult to view them in isolation as there is a weaving in of color palettes happening. Mr. Cunningham further explained how the natural, muted tones are woven in with some of the more vibrant colors. All of the color choices and accent tones were given consideration to reflect the space that they are in and to work well (i.e., be compatible) with natural light.

Committee members discussed various aspects of the interior color choices. Ms. Schreiber expressed concern that final colors have been chosen without full vetting from the Committee members. Specifically, the very bright blue on the second floor is a concern. She asked: Could it be toned down a little bit? What's possible going forward? Chair Lovallo explained the color selection process, and he acknowledged that the color chips were not presented to the Committee the way the brick samples had been. He noted that the walls are painted now and all of the "tying together threads" are in place, as well. Mr. Albuquerque stressed that the wider palette throughout the building is comprised of neutral colors. The brighter, deeper tones are in accent areas only.

Mr. McLaughlin expressed deference to the design experts who put a tremendous amount of time into the color selections throughout the building. Mr. Caputo agreed with those comments, the exception for him being the bright blue wall on the second floor. Ms. Miller requested one more opportunity to see the colors in the building. Chair Lovallo noted that the paint is going up and the painting of walls, etc. is well underway throughout the building. He expressed concern that the process will begin to unravel. Any changes add costs, he added.

The Committee discussed how to move forward, given the feedback received at today's meeting. Chair Lovallo added that there is a final coat process that occurs toward the end of the project. Perhaps a color tone could be looked at again at the time. Superintendent Phelan stated that it will all come together; he expressed support for moving forward at this time

Mr. McLaughlin moved: To proceed with the interior color palette design as previously approved by Committee – with a walk-through review prior to the final coat of paint being applied to the accent wall at the 2nd floor classrooms, in order to have Committee input before the final coat of paint goes up.

The motion passed unanimously, by those present at the meeting.

VII. Review of Tack Surfaces

Mr. Albuquerque suggested a change in materials (i.e., replacing cork brick with Forbo) for classroom tack/bulletin boards and bump-outs. He addressed both cost (Forbo is less expensive) and the functionality (and durability) of Forbo. Chair Lovallo asked clarifying questions and reviewed the impact to the budget.

FINAL

Ms. Bowen moved: To approve the Forbo tack board.
The motion passed unanimously, by those present at the meeting.

VIII. Approval of Designer Fee Amendment

Chair Lovallo notified the Committee that this topic would not be discussed today.

IX. New Business/Other

Ms. Schreiber raised the issue of large community events that will be held in the cafeteria, e.g., concerts, meetings, etc. Will there be chairs (with backs, not stools) for community members to sit on? Will there be tables with tablecloths? Where will those chairs/tables be stored? She requested a process for looking at how this will work. Superintendent Phelan summarized what is currently in place to support those types of events. Chair Lovallo said a group can be formed (at a later date) to review what will be in place.

X. Comments from Belmont Residents

There were no resident comments.

XI. Related Meeting Documents

1. Educational Technology Presentation
2. Interior Finish Presentation

XII. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 10:13 a.m. by Mr. McLaughlin.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lisa Gibalerio

Approved: *Christopher R. Messer* 02/23/2021
Chris Messer, Secretary Date