



MEETING MINUTES

Project: Newton Countryside Elementary School
 Subject: School Building Committee Meeting
 Location: Zoom Conference Call
 Distribution: Attendees, Project File

Project No: 22-0123
 Meeting Date: 8/23/2022
 Time: 6:00 PM
 Prepared By: Aidan Place

Present	Name	Affiliation	Present	Name	Affiliation
	Jonathan Yeo* WG	Chief Operating Officer	✓	Mike Burton	DWMP
	Ruthann Fuller	Mayor	✓	Christina Dell Angelo	DWMP
	Emily Prenner* WG	School Committee	✓	Mike Cox	DWMP
	Kathy Smith	Superintendent of Schools	✓	Rachel Rincon	DWMP
✓	Josh Morse* WG	Commissioner of Public Buildings		Steve Brown	DWMP
✓	Beth Herlihy* WG	Principal Countryside E.S.	✓	Donna DiNisco	DiNisco
	Ayesha Farag*	Asst. Superintendent of Elementary	✓	Jim Shuttleworth	DiNisco
	Maureen Lemieux*	Chief Financial Officer	✓	Vivian Low	DiNisco
	Tom Gloria	DRC			
✓	Ellen Light	Resident			
	Tamika Olszewski	School Committee (Chair)			
✓	Cove Davis*	School Committee			
✓	Stacy Klickstein	Resident			
	Liam Hurley* WG	Asst. Superintendent/ Chief Fin. &			
✓	Andreae Downs* WG	City Council			
✓	David Kalis*	City Council			
	Patricia Byrne*	Resident			
✓	Lori Zinner*	Resident			
	Andrew Lee	Asst. City Solicitor			
	Stephanie Gilman WG	Dir. Planning, Project Mgt, &			
	David Stickney	Director of Facilities			
✓	Alex Valcarce WG	Deputy Commissioner			
✓	Adam Lipson	Resident			
	Maura Tynes WG	Director of Elementary Special Ed.			
✓	Lisa Reibstein	Public			
✓	Brian Hunter	Public			

* SBC Voting Member | WG Working Group

Item No.	Description	Action
3.1	Call to Order: 6:03 pm meeting was called to order by Commissioner of Public Buildings J. Morse with 6 of 12 voting members in attendance.	Record
3.2	Approval of May 24, 2022 Meeting Minutes & June 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Meeting minutes will be approved next SBC meeting as there were not enough voting members in attendance. 	Record
3.3	Introduction of the Designer, DiNisco Design Team: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ D. DiNisco, V. Low, and J. Shuttleworth all introduce themselves to the committee. D. DiNisco mentions D. Stevens will be working with DiNisco on educational programming. B. Brown will be working with DiNisco as the landscape architect. J. Bernardo will also be consulting on the Countryside site. D. DiNisco says the team wants to understand the Countryside community and what is important to them. They want to look back at previous projects they have done with Newton to see how the educational programs developed over the years so they can validate and confirm the program needs as they move forward with the project. They understand that every student learns differently, and that Newton has an amazing program that fosters culture of equity and excellence by delivering and sustaining high-quality education. They understand that you need multiple ways of learning whether it be supporting differentiated learning and instruction, project-based learning, or if it's a small or large group, they look forward to developing the right balance with Newton. It is also important for students to develop their own clear sense of belonging and ownership in a smaller learning community. This makes the students feel safe and comfortable in their environment. The outdoor learning opportunities at Countryside are important. ➤ J. Shuttleworth says he had the pleasure of being the project manager on the Hastings Elementary School in Lexington. DiNisco worked closely with the town stakeholders and educators to help them make smart decisions on the Hastings Elementary School. They participated in community events and small group gatherings to get an understanding for what the community at large was looking for. With that understanding, they developed the plan for a vibrant elementary school that was simple, and a design that met their educational requirements. All in a very confined site between sizeable wetlands and a new geothermal wellfield and an existing operational elementary school. 	Record

- D. DiNisco states how important a low EUI is to achieve a net zero building. DiNisco's goal is to have a EUI of 28 but would be better to achieve a 25. This will depend on the system that is used in the building. D. DiNisco shows recent buildings completed including the Cabot School which was a renovation/addition, and they were really pleased with the EUI on it. The Hastings School was all electric and uses ground source heat. DiNisco mentions they are working with another community now that just made the decision to go with ground source heat pumps and with all this knowledge they feel they can help the community make the right decision for the Countryside School. DiNisco does not want to lose sight of the social and emotional wellbeing of the students. It is going to be a balance and making sure that they have the proper light and daylight to help the students reach their full potential while maintaining a highly efficient building. They look forward to working with Countryside throughout the process.
- J. Shuttleworth says he has high expectation of the team and states communication is key for a successful project. It is also important that quality and cost control are kept in check. He sees a concise set of drawings as the first product in the design process, the second being the building.
- V. Low states they believe that design is a responsive design and responsive design means that they understand goals and priorities that then become their goals and priorities as well. DiNisco wants to maintain the community connections of the blue zone, bus zones, and safety. DiNisco will be looking at the 200-foot riverfront and wetlands carefully as they need to balance that with stormwater mitigation. All these natural elements of the site help frame how they look at the project and decide an optimal building location. After working with the consultants, the past few weeks, it makes sense for the new school to be on the northern portion of the site. This would provide an opportunity for phased construction. They can build a new school while maintaining operations at the existing Countryside building. In order to transform this site, it is best to look at it in three zones that work together. Where the existing school is, it is a passive recreation zone. This is the area where it is the wettest. It has the wonderful natural resource, and the wetland gives DiNisco an opportunity to start to look at some natural connections to and from the community. This area also provides an opportunity for wetland replication and compensatory flood storage should it be needed between the path of recreation zone and the school or learning zone. There is an opportunity and space to redevelop a field. It could be a softball field, baseball field, or multipurpose field depending on what the city determines the need to be. This can then be designed in conjunction with schools training areas,

that becomes a vibrant and active area being the active zone. The school or learning zone wants to develop transparency between the built environment and working at both interior learning areas and outdoor learning. This is just one approach to looking at the site.

- V. Low shows video clip of how the site could be developed. There are boardwalks where areas are wet and small group learning areas. Then shows an image of what the playing field could look like. V. Low mentions how daylight is very important in learning areas, making sure to incorporate this into the building design.

Discussion:

- D. Kalis states he likes the idea of leveraging the wetlands and it is a great idea. The play space is in a great location. D. Kalis also mentions complications with pick up and drop off, one of the major problems they currently have.
- J. Bornstein asks about the construction noise being a distraction for the kids. D. DiNisco answers saying they have experience with this and that a recent school in Lexington was ten feet away from the existing building and it worked out well.
- L. Reibstien wanted to mention a dangerous intersection that causes backups on the road. It is hard to handle with kids walking to the school. J. Morse responds saying he has already started conversations regarding this topic.
- L. Reibstein also brings up how staff parking is limited and asks is there consideration given the overflow of parking and how that effects the neighborhood. J. Morse responds saying they will put together a plan for this issue.
- A. Lipson mentions the neighborhood connection going from the top northwest corner to the playfield sees a lot of foot traffic from kids. A. Lipson wants DiNisco to be mindful of this when putting together a plan. Also putting parking farther south of Dedham Street is not a great idea as teachers will have to walk farther to get to school. She encourages the design team to think about these issues when in the design process.
- T. Gloria asks what's the expectation of time frame for a school not built in the same footprint. J. Morse responds saying typically 24 months for construction

3.4	Public Comment: ➤ None.	Record
3.5	Next Meetings: ➤ SBC 04 – Tuesday September 20 th 6:00 PM on Zoom.	Record
3.6	Adjourn: 6:44 pm A motion was made by J. Morse. Discussion: None.	Record

Sincerely,

DORE + WHITTIER

Aidan Place

Assistant Project Manager

Cc: Attendees, File

The above is my summation of our meeting. If you have any additions and/or corrections, please contact me for incorporation into these minutes.