



**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: 01/24/24  
 Time: 6:00 PM  
 Prepared By: Andrea O'Toole

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
	Ana Nolin	Superintendent of Schools	✓	Andrea O'Toole	DWMP
✓	Josh Morse* WG	Commissioner of Public		Rachel Rincon	DWMP
✓	Beth Herlihy* WG	Principal Countryside E.S.	✓	Steve Brown	DWMP
	Ayesha Farag*	Asst. Superintendent of		Donna DiNisco	DiNisco
	Maureen Lemieux*	Chief Financial Officer		Jim Shuttleworth	DiNisco
	Nick Read	Chief Procurement Officer	✓	Vivian Low	DiNisco
✓	Jini Fairley	ADA Coordinator	✓	Anne Davis Woodacre	DiNisco
	Maura Tynes WG	Director of Elementary	✓	Amy Mackrell	DRC
	Tamika Olszewski	School Committee (Chair)		Ambrose Donavan	DRC
	Cove Davis*	School Committee	✓	Andrea Kelley -CC Rep.	DRC
	Liam Hurley* WG	Asst. Superintendent/		Barney Heath - Planning	DRC
✓	Andreae Downs* WG	City Council	✓	Carol Schein	DRC
✓	David Kalis*	City Council		David Gillespie	DRC
	Bill Humphrey	City Council		Rob Hnasko	DRC
	Andrew Lee	Asst. City Solicitor	✓	Jonathan Kantar	DRC
✓	Stephanie Gilman WG	Dir. Planning, Project Mgt,	✓	Peter Barrer	DRC
	David Stickney	Director of Facilities		SingNing Kuo	DRC
✓	Alex Valcarce WG	Deputy Commissioner		Steve Siegel	DRC
✓	Adam Lipson	Resident	✓	Adam Bernstein	DRC Comm Rep
✓	Stacy Klickstein*	Resident		Denista Daneva	DRC Comm Rep
	Lori Zinner*	Resident	✓	Ellen Light	DRC Co- Chair
✓	Denista Daneva	Resident	✓	Tom Gloria	DRC Co-Chair
✓	Kaitlyn Spiegel	Resident	✓	Lisa Reibstein	Resident
✓	Alan Rao	Resident	✓	Christina Oliver	Resident
✓	Alix Simonson	Resident			

\*Voting member

Item No.	Description	Action
1	<b>Call to Order:</b> 6:00	Record
2	<p><b>Presentation Review - Embodies Carbons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ V. Low presents how the architect is using design, materials and procurement strategies to reduce embodied carbons in the new school.</li> <li>➤ T. Gloria is very familiar with this item and can help obtain EPD's.</li> </ul>	Record
3	<p><b>Presentation Review - Design Development:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ V. Low reviews slides of options 2-10B to show the progression of the building's main street entrance. Adding texture and pattern to the building's exterior as well as energy efficient spans of glass has greatly improved the aesthetic. They will continue to refine the exterior design as well as circulate the physical materials to the group for review.</li> <li>➤ Review of typical classroom window layouts and height with comparisons to other local elementary schools. And proposed floor plans from 1<sup>st</sup> floor to the roof.</li> <li>➤ C. Shein would like clarification on what internal spaces at the front of the building have large expenses of glass. V. Low responded that it was the OT/PT rooms as well as teacher work/lunchroom.</li> <li>➤ Interior inspirations and color palettes were shown. They are based on murals currently in the existing building. An organic flow from ground, to canopy, to sky as students and staff ascent up through the building was presented.</li> <li>➤ Site Updates included revised loading dock, plant removal, planting beds, and reduction in concrete along front plaza. V. Low also discussed the NOI submission to the Conservation Commission. If approved the City will begin intermittent stream clean out spring 2024. The project will go before the Conservation Commission on February 1<sup>st</sup> NOT the 7<sup>th</sup> as discussed in this meeting.</li> </ul>	Record
4	<p><b>Vehicular Circulation and Parking:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ V. Low reviews, bus queuing outside of traffic line, increased curbing, current blue zone locations and traffic at the main intersection. The blue zone may need to be elongated and flipped to the other side of the street. DiNisco to study this further.</li> </ul>	Record
5	<p><b>Resident Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ K. Spiegel had questions on the height, location, and necessity of the mechanical screens. V. Low and J. Morse explained that they are used to</li> </ul>	Record

	<p>hide the ECU's and AHU's. They are currently needed in this area, but DiNisco will review with their mechanical engineers to see if they can move them further back or divide them into multiple smaller units.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ J. Kantar explains that equipment is already very sparing due to the Ground Source Heat Pumps being installed in this project.</li> <li>➤ L. Reibstein, K. Spiegel, C. Oliver, all comment that the building's façade feels very industrial and not like a neighborhood school. Comments were made that some curvature should be added. V. Low comments that they are trying to balance and efficient building design while using aesthetically pleasing materials. They will continue to refine the design but will not be able to add any curvature to the wall as requested.</li> <li>➤ K. Spiegel would like to know why the school cannot be moved back further into the floor zone. A. Valcarce clarifies that while the whole school is in the flood zone is the law that the 1<sup>st</sup> floor needs to be above the 100 year flood plain. The location also mitigates unnecessary floors/steps/ramps needed for ADA accessibility. A.Rao is worried about traffic circulation, bus queuing, sidewalks, sitewide drainage, and solar panels.</li> <li>➤ L. Reibstain is concerned that the intermittent stream is flowing in the wrong direction. A. Valcarce let her know this will be remedied this spring.</li> <li>➤ K. Speigel discussed the parking and traffic situation in front of her residence. Possible solutions of adding a "no block box" as well as no parking signs were discussed. She would like to know when the traffic council is meeting next so she can be present. J. Morse let her know that he would bring it up with Transportation.</li> <li>➤ L. Reibstein would like to know if the bus queuing can be moved to the back of the building where the ball fields are? A. Valcarce responds that would not allow for legally required accessible entrance due to the lower elevation.</li> </ul>	
6	<p><b>Upcoming DRC Meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ February 2024 – LCCA Updates + Energy Model Review, Building Systems, Site Plan Updates (Playgrounds and Site Lighting)</li> <li>➤ March 2024 – Materials and Sustainability.</li> </ul>	Record
7	<p><b>Next Meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ February 28<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm</li> </ul>	Record
8	<p><b>Adjourn:</b> 8:00 pm</p>	Record

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Sincerely,

**DORE + WHITTIER**

Andrea O'Toole

Assistant Project Manager

Cc: Attendees, File

The above is my summation of our meeting. If you have any additions and/or corrections, please submit within 48 hours for incorporation into these minutes.