

Glenn Brand, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Alice Brown-LeGrand
Director of Student Support Services

Christine Elliott
Assistant Superintendent for
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Kenneth Lord
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*A school and community partnership that provides an inclusive, respectful, and collaborative learning environment
where all stakeholders are engaged in the development of the whole child.*

MSBA Wildwood School Building Committee Meeting
December 13, 2022 06:00 PM
Virtual via Zoom

Meeting Minutes:

1. Roll Call

Superintendent Brand called to order the Wildwood School Building Committee Meeting at 6:02PM.

Committee members in attendance:

- Dr. Glenn Brand, School Superintendent, Committee Chairman
- Jeffrey M. Hull, Town Manager
- David A. Ragsdale, School Committee (*departed at 6:45pm*)
- Paul Ruggiero, Assistant Superintendent of Administration & Finance
- Marianne Gallezzo, Finance Committee
- Paul J. Melaragni, Permanent Building Committee
- Gregory B. Bendel, Board of Selectmen
- Kate Bissell, School Principal
- Diane M. Allan, Permanent Building Committee
- Bryan T. Perry, Finance Director/Town Accountant
- Melissa D. Plowman, School Committee *Alternate*
- Kristen Walsh, School Principal *Alternate*
- George W. Hooper II, Public Buildings Superintendent (*joined at 6:10pm*)

Absent:

- Kevin A. Caira, Board of Selectmen *Alternate*
- John C. Holloway, Permanent Building Committee

Community members in attendance:

None

2. Approval of minutes from 11/21/2022 MSBA Wildwood School Building Committee meeting

Motion: Ms. Allan moved to approve; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bendel.

Vote: All in favor except for Mr. Perry, who abstained.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

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3. Review of costs and any additional information regarding Wildwood Study (new) Option

Superintendent Brand recapped the plan to relocate seven Wildwood classrooms to the Middle School.

George Hooper joined the call at 6:10.

Dr. Brand reviewed capacity at the middle school, anticipating 680 to 690 students next year. Approximately 110 Wildwood students expected next year. Enrollment projected to be largest next year, then decrease afterward.

Ms. Plowman commented that SPED enrollment and needs have increased in recent years and we need more space even with fewer students than in the past. She asked Dr. Brand to speak to this issue re: capacity.

Dr. Brand said that there should be enough flexibility to handle SPED needs at the middle school but we may need to add a program at the Wildwood in the future.

Dr. Brand reviewed maps of the middle school and its campus - where the playground will go (outside the south entrance).

Dr. Brand reviewed where bathrooms will be constructed and which classrooms will be used for Wildwood, where new conference rooms will be constructed.

The plans is still to create a school within a school.

Next, Dr. Brand presented the cost estimates

These were new estimates from Dore & Whittier that put the total estimated cost at \$1,831,960. \$596,428 is for the playground. \$200,000 for play structure itself and \$200,000 for rubberized surface that structure sits upon; plus Design, fencing, labor, misc., make up the rest.

MGL requires that projects over \$1.5 million require an OPM.

Other costs include technology and security equipment for Wildwood - interactive panels, Raptor system, panic button,

Mr. Ragsdale left the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Dr. Brand provided the committee with a line-by-line description of the revised estimated costs and then opened the floor for Q & A from the committee:

- Ms. Gallezzo asked about the playground space currently being used and how the school is currently conducting outdoor play, Ms. Bissell responded

- Diane Allan asked about the amount of time actually spent outside for playing on the playground
- Mr. Bendel questioned the line item about furniture and the repurposing of any Wildwood furniture left in that building and also ways the decrease roughly \$400,000 in cost to keep the total below the 1.5 million threshold to avoid the hiring of an OPM
- Ms. Gallezzo suggested to not include a playground and to explore at a later date in order to accomplish lowering the total costs below the 1.5 million
- Dr. Brand explains that beyond cost, hiring an OPM will impact time-to-completion
- Mr. Hull referenced the reserve fund as a possible way to avoid waiting for funds by covering some of the designer costs in the current fiscal year and not put the time-to-completion at risk. Ms. Gallezzo commented that she would not support this plan if the play structure is included in the bottom line at that amount.
- Dr. Brand spoke of the importance in providing equitable educational programming across early childhood programs and the importance of providing a play space of some sort (not just consideration of a play structure per se) and requested that the committee provide him additional time to explore ideas and other options with principals, Ms. Bissell and/or Ms. Walsh
- Ms. Allan questioned why there was such a significant change in the cost estimate at the last minute. Mr. Hull explained the process of gathering additional information about the code/requirements for outdoor play structures, and particularly referenced the ground surface needing to meet certain safety requirements that had not been factored.
- Ms. Allan also asked about the necessity for the following: new library flooring at the middle school, furniture costs, and interactive white boards
- Ms. Gallezzo asked for clarification about the timeframe for funding. Mr. Hull explained that the earliest that funding could be designated would be 7/1/23. If the reserve fund was used, some designer work (e.g. bid documents) could be completed during this fiscal year.
- Mr. Bendel suggested or asked if there was a way procedurally to avoid or detach the playground portion from this overall project and perhaps go to town meeting with a separate article to secure funding for the playground independently, or whether any money granted to the town for COVID relief could be allocated to a project of this sort
- Ms. Plowman addressed some of the comments of other committee members who may have been questioning the necessity of the playground and spoke to the importance of finding some way to ensure that the playground space be integrated into the plan set forth given the role and importance of gross motor play, and social interaction for this age level
- Mr. Hull asked if access to the middle school gymnasium would meet some of those needs and whether step stools in the classroom would suffice in allowing students to utilize the current interactive white boards
- Ms. Gallezzo encouraged the committee to consider the financial impact this proposal has on taxpayers and highlighted that this play structure under consideration is only accessible to 2 grade levels

4. Recommendation of Option

Dr. Brand requested again for more time to look at alternative options and the committee came to consensus that that was necessary before going to vote on this proposal.

5. Public Comment

No public comments were made.

6. Adjourn

Superintendent Brand called to adjourn the Wildwood School Building Committee Meeting at 7:40PM.

Motion: Mr. Melarangni made the above motion; it was seconded by Ms. Allan.

Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

David A. Ragsdale, School Committee,
and Melissa D. Plowman, School Committee *Alternate*
(Temporary meeting recorders)