

**New Elementary School
Straw Poll
June 10, 2004 6:30 PM
Auburn Middle School**

Building Committee Members Present:

Dr. Ted Belitsos
Ms. Catherine Dodge
Mr. Art Feeley
Mr. Mark Fournier
Ms. Vickie Gaylord
Mr. Jon Goodwin

Mr. Billy Hunter
Mr. Justin Leary
Mr. Jeff Soifer
Ms. Jackie Strong
Ms. Sue Trask
Ms. Cathy Wilson

Others Present: Barbara Eretzian, Superintendent; Jude Cyr, Business Manager; Tom Morrill, Assistant Superintendent; Jane Williams, School Committee; David Das, School Committee; Kathy Constantine, School Committee; Pat Finnegan, City Manager; Steve Blatt, Architect; Neria Douglas, State Senator.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting began at 6:30 P.M.

Mrs. Eretzian welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. She stated that this project has been in the works for a long time and there have been many changes along the way. We had a meeting with the State as recently as this morning and have even more updates to the plan. She reported that this project stems from our Master Plan that calls for three K-6 Elementary Schools on the North Side.

Mrs. Eretzian introduced Mr. Steven Blatt, Architect, stating that he would be discussing the program and concept design of the New Elementary School.

II. PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Steve Blatt presented the program and concept design of the New Elementary School.

Mr. Blatt stated he has been working on this project for a couple of years stating that when the current Lake St. School site did not work, the Park Ave. site was reviewed and chosen. He then gave the same presentation about concept design that he gave to the Building Committee at the last two Committee meetings. He stated that the main concept of the school is to break it down into small groups of students with communities of similar age children.

Mr. Blatt noted that this would be the first K-6 school on the north side. The original plan was to accommodate 300 students; however, the State has asked us to build for 325 students to accommodate growth. The state would support this with their funding. He reported that the school would be approximately 44,000 square feet being two stories and having a daylight basement. He pointed out various sections of the school on the floor plans noting such things as; the library would be the size of three classrooms; the basement would contain music and art classrooms and hands on lab/project room; and the cafeteria and gym would have a stage in the middle.

Mr. Blatt stated that they have tried to make this building as efficient as possible pointing out that the building faces south to utilize as much northern and southern light as possible. The windows would be designed to bring light deep into the classrooms. He noted that this would be a responsible, resourceful, sustainable school being very energy efficient.

Mr. Blatt reported that there would be a few options given to voters in the fall. There would be a choice for the small size gym or one larger that would be the size to the Middle School's gym. He noted that the only difference would be that the larger gym would be appropriate for high school and adult practices. It would not be as large as the High School's gym. He stated that another proposal we are introducing is the

fact that the school could grow by creating the potential for an additional two classrooms. He noted that some of the school would be air conditioned, but for approximately \$100,000 more, we could air condition the entire school.

Mr. Blatt presented a three dimensional model of the school stating that this building would be three times the size of the old school and pointing out certain areas such as the small scale entrance, outdoor courtyard, pitched roof etc. He stated that the intention is to have a joyful, fun, and welcoming school that would be memorable for all students.

Mr. Blatt stated that costs have not been finalized at this stage of the project, but the approximate cost of the school with the smaller gym including costs for land, administrative costs and reserve, fees and surveys would be \$9.3 million. Mr. Cyr reported that according to the State formula, they would reimburse at least 42.5%. Mr. Blatt stated if we decide on the larger gym and air conditioning, it would cost approximately an additional \$700,000. He noted that the State would not share this cost and it would have to be funded locally.

Mr. Blatt stated that for a little under \$10 million for the whole project, we would have a state of the art school with modern technology.

III. DISCUSSIONS

A. Mr. Blatt opened the discussion up for questions and concerns.

Many citizens gave praise, support and positive feedback regarding this project. One abutter stated that we have been very sensitive to the questions and concerns of the neighbors and would encourage us to continue our efforts. Many residents stated that they were very pleased and excited about this project. A few residents stated concerns for the location of the project.

B. Mr. Cyr took the vote.

Mr. Cyr asked for a show of hand of people who were in favor and not in favor of the concept design. The vote results were as follows:

95 In Favor, 8 Opposed.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Eretzian thanked everyone for attending the straw poll. She stated that we would be going before the State Board of Education in July and would keep the community posted. She reported that another meeting would be scheduled in the fall to discuss the cost more specifically. She also stated that our website would be updated as we got more information and anyone is welcome to call anytime with questions or concerns.