

WELLINGTON SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES

March 7, 2007

School Administration Building Conference Room

7:30 AM

Meeting # 24

Committee members attending: Mark Haley, John Bowe, Pat Brusch, Phil Curtis, Joel Mooney, Mary McHugh, Karen Pressey, Lucy Pullen, Rob Wollner

Absent: Greg Poulos

School Department: Amy Wagner

The purpose of the meeting was to update the committee regarding procedures for applications for a school building assistance grant from the MSBA.

Pat Brusch presented a comprehensive overview of the process.


The Awarding Authority is still planning to accept applications in July, 2007. Belmont has submitted Letters of Intent for both the Wellington School and Belmont High School. The Wellington School will be eligible for one of the lower priority levels while the High School may qualify for the second level since they have been notified that they may be on probation due to inadequate educational facilities.

The next step is that the State will review the Letters of Intent and select a number of projects for a Professional Assessment. They have recently contracted with a team of professionals to perform these reviews. They will do a thorough analysis of the current buildings and sit down with school personnel at public meetings to discuss their assessment. This process is scheduled to begin by the end of March. The State will then decide if our projects qualify for a Feasibility Study. They will pay for the study if the towns need their help. Towns can hire a Project Manager at this stage. A budget will be established based on the feasibility study and the State will not reimburse for a penny more. Once a Town receives funding for a particular building they cannot apply for further grants for that building for 10 years. Once a project has received approval for reimbursement, towns will have 120 days to obtain local funding. In Belmont's case a debt exclusion and Town Meeting approval will be required. If either of the Belmont projects is chosen for State funding, a Debt Exclusion would be needed sometime in FY 08. Committee members did some brainstorming about possible timing of a Debt Exclusion for the Wellington but no conclusions were reached. Debt Exclusion preparations will be done by parent supporters of the individual projects.

Pat indicated that she was optimistic about Belmont's chances of having both the Wellington and the High School on the list of projects to receive the Professional Assessment.

The Board of Selectmen has scheduled another Mega Meeting to review anticipated building projects on March 19, 2007 at 7:00 at Chenery Middle School. She encouraged strong representation from Wellington School parents.

Respectfully Submitted,


Karen Pressey, Secretary