

Belmont High School Building Committee December 2016 Update

COMMITTEE

In January 2016, the Town of Belmont was notified by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) that the Town's Statement of Interest (SOI) application was invited into the MSBA Eligibility Period (Module 1) process. As a result, in February 2016, Belmont's Town Meeting established the Belmont High School Building Committee (BHSBC).

The Committee is comprised of 17 members including: elected town officials, school committee members, town committee representatives, members of the community with architecture, engineering and/or construction experience, and parents. A comprehensive listing of the Committee is located at www.belmont-ma.gov/belmont-high-school-building-committee.

Meetings of the Committee are held monthly at various times and locations and are open to the public. A detailed listing of meeting dates, times, and documentation from previous meetings are available on the BHSBC section of the Town website.

PROCESS

The MSBA Building Process is comprised of eight modules, or steps as defined by the MSBA. For detailed descriptions of each module, including information on grant programs for school building construction and renovation projects, visit www.massschoolbuildings.org/building.

Module 1 – Eligibility Period – 9 Months - Complete

When the MSBA Board of Directors votes to invite a District into the Eligibility Period, a 270-day period is initiated for the District to complete certain preliminary requirements. The BHSBC successfully completed all required tasks before the November 7, 2016 deadline.

Major tasks included:

- Completion of Educational Profile Questionnaire
- Completion of online Enrollment Projections
- Hiring of McKibben Demographics to independently validate enrollment projections
- Completion of Enrollment Certification identifying the enrollment targets for grade configurations that the Town will explore as part of Module 3 - Feasibility Study
- Compilation of Maintenance and Capital Planning Information
- Appropriation of \$1,750,000 by Town Meeting to undertake the hiring of an Owner's Project Manager (OPM) and the hiring of an architect, through a design selection process, to develop a feasibility study based on the Enrollment Certification
- Execution of a Feasibility Study agreement between the Town and the MSBA

All supporting documentation for reports compiled and completed under Module 1 are available at www.belmont-ma.gov/belmont-high-school-building-committee.

Module 2 – Forming the Project Team – In Progress

Based on the completion of all requirements of Module 1 by the Committee, the MSBA Board voted on November 9, 2016 to partner with the Town to advance to **Module 2 – Forming the Project Team**. This includes hiring an Owner’s Project Manager or OPM. The OPM provides assistance and advice with respect to design, scope of work, cost estimates, scheduling, and construction, in addition to other areas of project management. An architect will also be hired as part of the Project Team to complete a feasibility study (see Module 3 – Feasibility Study).

Hiring an OPM and an architect will take several months.

Module 3 – Feasibility Study

Once an OPM and an architect have been hired as part of the Project Team, the District will work with the MSBA to document “their educational program, generate an initial space summary, document existing conditions, establish design parameters, develop and evaluate alternatives, and recommend the most cost effective and educationally appropriate preferred solution to the MSBA Board of Directors for their consideration” (from MSBA Module Overview).

The Feasibility Study will include exploration of three possible enrollment groupings as identified in the Enrollment Certification process. The potential configurations include grades 9-12, grades 8-12, and grades 7-12. While the 8-12 and 7-12 configurations offer significant opportunities in terms of relieving overcrowding at the elementary and middle school buildings, these potential options will need to be carefully studied with respect to factors such as the educational program as well as appropriate physical and programmatic separations. The pros and cons of all three options will be explored during the Feasibility Study.

Completing the Feasibility Study will take 6 to 12 months

COMMUNICATION

In addition to the BHSBC website, representatives of the BHSBC have provided written and verbal updates to PTOs and PTAs. The Superintendent and the BHS Principal have furnished updates to students and staff and have appeared on Cable TV.

Moving forward, the BHSBC is committed to increasing communication with the community and plans to actively solicit community input. In partnership with the School Committee and the School Administration, the BHSBC plans to create multiple channels, including public meetings, online surveys, and Q & A sessions, through which community members will not only be apprised of the progress of the BHSBC, but will have the opportunity to share their opinions, ask questions, and contribute to the building process. Stay tuned!

Questions or Comments? Email BHS-BC@belmont-ma.gov