

Section F

Facilities Development

FAFacilities Development Goals

FBFacilities Planning

FCBRetirement of Facilities

FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The School Committee believes that any educational program is influenced greatly by the environment in which it functions. The development of a quality educational program and school facilities that help to implement the program must go hand in hand.

Therefore, it is the School Committee's goal to provide the facilities needed for the number of students in the school system, and to provide the kind of facilities that will best support and accommodate the educational program.

In planning facilities, the School Committee recognizes that capital outlay funds are limited, and that priorities must be established to make the best use of the school building dollar. The School Committee's first objective will be to develop a plan that eliminates overcrowding and minimizes the need for extended day programs and double sessions. Whenever possible, the cultural as well as educational needs of the community will be considered in planning facility expansions.

Architects retained by the School Committee are expected to plan for simplicity of design; sound economics, including low long-range maintenance costs, efficiency in energy needs, low insurance rates; high educational use; and flexibility.

Adoption date: July 17, 1997

FACILITIES PLANNING

School Building Committee

The Board of Selectmen appoints school building committees for specific building projects. These committees act as the administrative authority for the projects, subject to approval of various actions by the School Committee and town.

The school building committee has the following responsibilities:

1. To study and make recommendations to the town with respect to school building needs.
2. To review thoroughly with the Superintendent and the School Committee the educational requirements in relation to school buildings.
3. To review previous studies and initiate needed studies with or without consultative assistance.
4. To employ the services of architects and costs estimators and such other professional assistance as it may deem necessary.

Staff Planning

Arrangements will be made by the Superintendent, working through principals, for the school staff to contribute in the planning of new school buildings. Teachers will be given the opportunity to submit suggestions for possible inclusion in the educational specifications.

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LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:37C and D; 71:68; 71:70
Massachusetts Board of Education Regulations Governing the School Building Assistance Act, Chapter 645 of the Acts of 1948 as amended, FY79
Town Charter, Sec. 6-1

RETIREMENT OF FACILITIES

When a school building becomes inadequate by virtue of age, condition, size of site, lack of need, or other overriding limitations, and cannot reasonably and economically be brought up to the current educational standards, the building should be considered for a comprehensive closing study. The Superintendent shall recommend to the School Committee which facilities appear to justify further analysis. The Superintendent and the School Committee shall then recommend to the Board of Selectmen which facilities appear to justify further analysis.

The School Committee may seek both professional advice and the advice of the community in making its recommendations as to the retirement of any school facility. This will permit the public, which originally acquired the property, to benefit from its recycling or retirement.

A closing study will include direct involvement by those neighborhoods considered in the study and will be concerned with all or some of the following factors:

1. Age and current physical condition of the facilities, its operating systems, and program facilities.
2. Adequacy of site, location, access, surrounding development, traffic patterns, and other environmental conditions.
3. Reassignment of children, including alternative plans according to School Committee policy.
4. Transportation factors, including numbers of children bussed, time, distance, and safety.
5. Alternative uses of the building.
6. Cost/Savings
 - a. Personnel
 - b. Plant Operation
 - c. Transportation
 - d. Capital Investment
 - e. Alternative Use
7. Continuity of instructional and community programs.

A final report with a recommendation will be provided by the Superintendent and School Committee to the Board of Selectmen for further consideration.

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