The Concord Middle School Building Committee Report

Building Committee nears a decision on selecting a Designer, learns about Sustainability, and plans for Community Engagement

Designer Selection Process
Members of The Design Subcommittee met on October 28 to create a short list of finalists to be interviewed at a subcommittee meeting scheduled for November 6th. More than 20 responses were reviewed and five firms were advanced to the interview stage in the selection process. The selected firm will work with the Building Committee to conduct a feasibility study and to develop a schematic design for a single new middle school building at the site of the current Sanborn building to replace the two existing facilities. The feasibility and schematic design process will yield the information necessary for Concord residents to make an informed decision on funding the middle school construction project at a future Town Meeting. The Building Committee retains the option to consider whether or not to re-engage with the firm following a decision at Town Meeting to move forward with construction.

The Concord Middle School Building Committee (MSBC) will meet on Thursday, November 7 at 7:30am with the goal of selecting two firms in order of preference. If contract terms cannot be reached with the first preference; the Committee would move on to the next firm.

The design firms responded to A Request for Services that included background and context for the proposed project, project goals, sustainability goals, scope of services, draft schedule scenarios, minimum qualifications for firms to be selected, and the selection criteria that will be used by the Building Committee to choose the designer.

Sustainability
The MSBC meeting of October 31st included a discussion of approaches that could assist the Committee meet its charge regarding sustainability. Members discussed the need for sustainability to be considered holistically throughout the design process as well as the importance of being able to examine life cycle costs in relation to investments in the new building.

The approved Town Meeting Article called for a building that would be designed and constructed in a manner consistent with Concord’s sustainability goals and principles at the site of the current Sanborn Middle School. To facilitate this effort, a Sustainability Subcommittee was created that includes individuals with professional expertise in achieving energy goals and creating high performance buildings.

Community Engagement
A Communications Subcommittee was created to ensure that the MSBC’s process and activities are as transparent as possible. Members of the subcommittee will guide efforts to communicate and engage with all residents of Concord. These efforts will include creating a digital presence via a website and social media, distribution of updates, and liaison relationships with other community stakeholder committees and groups.

In addition, the Committee will be host events to garner public input and share information. There will be public forums to gather input and less formal meetings that allow residents to ask questions and hear the latest updates. The Communications Subcommittee will bring public comments and questions to the subsequent MSBC meeting.
For instance, once the design firm is selected, public forums will be scheduled to gather public input to inform the design process.

**Upcoming Meetings:**
The Design Subcommittee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, November 6 at 8:30am in the Ripley Building located at 120 Meriam Road. The meeting will consist of interviews with design firms.

The Concord Middle School Building Committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday, November 7 @ 7:30am in the Ripley Building located at 120 Meriam Road. Agenda items include selecting a design firm.

All meetings are open to the public and interested individuals are encouraged to attend.

**Concord Middle School Building Committee Contact Information**
Interested individuals can find all relevant materials regarding the Concord Middle School Building Committee including meeting dates, agendas and minutes as well as reports that led to the Town Meeting Warrant Article at www.concordps.org/cms-building-project. For questions and comments, individuals can email the Committee at msbc@concordps.org or utilize the form on the aforementioned web page, https://www.concordps.org/cms-building-project/email-the-cms-building-committee/.