

The Concord Middle School Building Committee Report

Building Committee selects 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 as more than 20 firms expressed interest in the project. The Subcommittee advanced five firms to the interview stage in the selection process and met on November 6 to conduct interviews. The Subcommittee forwarded a recommendation that ranked the firms to the full Building Committee which met on November 7. Based on those recommendations, members of the Building Committee selected the top two firms in order of preference; the top ranked firm is SMMA of Boston.

The Design Subcommittee members were pleased with the finalists and remarked that all of the firms were capable of delivering a design that reflects the charge established in the Article adopted at Town Meeting. The Subcommittee members shared their belief that the top two firms were exceptional and the rankings should reflect the notion that there was minute separation between the two. The Committee ranked all design firms with a particular focus on the top firms for the sake of contract negotiations which is consistent with the Massachusetts School Building Authority's designer selection process. The process of ranking firms is conducted in case contract terms cannot be reached with the first preference which then allows the Committee to move on to the next ranked firm.

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 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 Building Committee 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 Building Committee'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 Building Committee 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: (All meetings will be held at the Ripley Building, 120 Meriam Road)

Concord Middle School Building Committee: November 21, 7:30am

Finance Subcommittee: December 5, 7:30am

Concord Middle School Building Committee: December 19, 7:30am

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/>.