

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Forum for
Middle School Building Project
Remote (On-Line)
Thursday, April 29, 2021

A remote (on-line) forum was held on Thursday, April 29, 2021 (remote due to the Covid-19 virus). The forum was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Governor Baker issued an Executive Order modifying certain requirements of the Open Meeting Law, to enable public bodies to carry out their responsibilities while adhering to public health recommendations regarding social distancing.

"In addition, all members of a public body may participate in a meeting remotely; the Open Meeting Law's requirement that a quorum of the body and the chair be physically present at the meeting location is suspended.

Committee Members Present: Ms. Teresa Stewart, Chair; Ms. Myev Bodenhofer, Mr. David Hiltz, Dr. Joan Giblin and Ms. Ann Marie Mazzola

Administrators Present: Dr. Dave Thomson, Superintendent of Schools

Members of the Panel: Alan Slater, Middle School Building Committee Chair; Teresa Stewart, School Committee Chair; James Jordan, Justin Thibeault, Tim Bonfatti, Diane Guenthner, Chin Lin, Julie Rahilly, Bryan Jarvis, Keelia Kentor, Kristen Kendall, Dr. Margo Fraczek, Tom Maloney, Matt Lane, Dana Brown, Diane Ferreira and Tony Mazzucco

Mr. Alan Slater welcomed everyone to this evening's forum. He said this is the third in a series of forums. He informed that this evening's meeting will be broadcast on Norwood Community Media. This evening, we will be focusing on Grade 5-8 enrollment options and Grade 6-8 enrollment options, as well as the crowding issues at the Elementary Schools. Mr. Slater then informed that the next Public Forum will be on May 19th at 7:00 p.m. and the topic will be design options.

Mr. Jim Jordan informed that the project website is:
<https://newcmsproject.org> and the project email is: cmsproject@norwoodma.gov .
This evening's agenda includes:

- Project Schedule;
- PDP Report Submission;
- Decisions required for the PSR phase
 - Building Design Option (MSBC)
 - Cafetorium vs. Auditorium (MSBC)
 - Grade Configuration (School Committee)
- Participant Polling

Mr. Thibeault reviewed the three options that the Committee is focusing on at the current Coakley Middle School site. He reviewed the three options: 3A, 3B and 3F.

Ms. Kristen Kendall reviewed (1) What could happen if the 5th Grades stayed at the Elementary Schools; and (2) What could happen if the 5th Grades moved to the Coakley Middle School. She reviewed the enrollment at each school as well as the schematic needs of each school.

School (1-5)	Existing Bld (SF)	Added Modulares (SF)	Estimated Cost
Balch	33,460	5,445	\$3.9 M
Callahan	21,767	4,215	\$3.3M
Cleveland	35,056	2,850	\$2.7M
Oldham	29,204	2,850	\$2.7M
Prescott	26,547	5,445	\$3.9M

Dr. Fraczek reviewed Stipulations:

- 5-8 is the more financially viable choice;
- The building is being specifically designed for the ages that will attend in a model that fits all 4 grades;
- Educationally there are equal amounts of benefits and no substantial detractions to moving grade 5 to middle school;
- Staffing increases will be between 2-3 staff with the transfer of roles to CMS.

Dr. Fraczek then reviewed questions around SEL and Educational Planning for Grade 5.

Mr. Thibeault shared the breakdown in Massachusetts for Middle School configurations:

- 5-8 15%
- 6-8 21%
- Other 64%

Mr. Thibeault suggested people checking out last night's Norwood School Committee for information from interviews from the Superintendent's in Quincy and Natick on their Middle Schools.

There were two polls for the public to fill out at www.menti.com : (Theses polling questions will be open until 5:00 p.m. on May 7th.

(1) The first polling question was to invest in an auditorium or cafetorium at the new Middle School? The code to get to this question on the website is: 31579969.

(2) The second polling question was:

Question 1:	Grade Configuration;
Questions 2/3:	Physical Environment;
Questions 4/5:	Student population

The code to get to this question on the website is: 81087837.

At the end of the forum there was an opportunity for questions from the public to be read and answered.

Mr. Slater thanked everyone for attending this evening's Public Forum and reminded that:

- The next Community Forum will be on May 19, 2021 (to discuss design options).
- The Project Website: <https://newcmsproject.org> ; and
- Project Email: cmsproject@norwoodma.gov

Public forum ended at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee