

Arlington High School Building Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, October 16, 2018  
AHS-School Committee Room-Sixth Floor  
6:00 pm

Present: Jeff Thielman, School Committee Representative, Chair  
Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Co-vice chair  
Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager, Co-vice chair  
Kirsi Allison-Ampe, School Committee Representative  
Francis Callahan, Community Member Representative (absent)  
John Cole, Chair, Permanent Town Building Committee  
John Danizio, APS Chief Financial Officer  
Tobey Jackson, Community Member Representative  
Matthew Janger, AHS Principal  
Ryan Katofsky, Community Member Representative  
Kate Loosian, Community Member Representative  
William McCarthy, AHS Assistant Principal  
Steve Nesterak, Facilities Director (absent)  
Judson Pierce, Community Member (absent)  
Sandy Pooler, Deputy Town Manager  
Brian Rehrig, Capital Planning Committee Member  
Daniel Ruiz, Community Member Representative  
Amy Speare, Community Member Representative  
Shannon Knuth, Teacher Representative  
Kent Werst, Teacher Representative

Also present: Chuck Adam, Jim Burrows, Victoria Clifford, Skanska Inc.  
Lori Cowles, Arthur Duffy, Melissa Greene, HMFH Architects, Inc.

**Call to order:** 6:00pm

Jeff Thielman made the following announcements on upcoming project events:

- ◆ Community Forum - October 24 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm, Thompson School Gymnasium
- ◆ Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> – AHSBC
- ◆ Town Meeting Member Tours of AHS - November 5 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm, Arlington High School
- ◆ AHS Building Committee - November 6 @ 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm, School Committee Room
- ◆ True Story Theater: Community Dialogue - November 7 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm, Thompson School Gymnasium
- ◆ Congratulated HMFH for receiving 5 School Building Design Awards presented by the MSBA.
  - ◆ Central Tree Middle School, Wachusett Regional School District
  - ◆ Boston Latin High School, Boston
  - ◆ Brooks, Columbus & Roberts Elementary Schools, Medford
  - ◆ Michael E. Capuano Early Childhood Center, Somerville

**Public Participation**

- ◆ Rachel, Community Member – Concerned with the pedestrian access surrounding the school perimeter, especially on Mass Ave.
- ◆ Elizabeth Terry – Concerned with the loss of the open space on the front green.

- ◆ Unknown – Suggests having a fall back plan if the voters reject the current plan that excludes non-educational spaces. Suggests that the architects replicate the existing façade.
- ◆ Unknown, neighbor of the school on Schouler Ct. – Concerned with roadway and pedestrian safety at Schouler Ct. Also concerns with the acoustics projecting from the Arlington High School sports fields and with plans of an amphitheater on directly on Schouler Ct.
- ◆ Ron Alex, Community Architect – Pleased to see that the Architects are proposing to move back the Theater back to preserve the front green. Requests that the architects provide further cost and elevation studies that proposes keeping Collomb House (renovation).
- ◆ Unknown, Architect – Claims that the historic significance of the open space and the historic facades has been ignored. Asks the Committee to consider addition renovation of Collomb House.

### **HMFH Presentation**

Lori Cowles reiterates that we are only at the beginning of the design process. The images shown at the Building Committee Meeting and Community Forums are not final design schemes.

### **Front Green Review**

HMFH was able to push the building design back 80ft in all cases. Went further to study the following options –

No Amphitheater Courtyard – Alt.1 – pushes the auditorium flush against the athletics wing. Creates an issue with construction phasing. Would result in the loss of the choral and theater classrooms until the last phase of construction.

No Amphitheater Courtyard – Alt 2. – auditorium must be pushed to phase 3. Would result in the loss of an auditorium for 3 years. Allows for 30 feet of gained front green.

The committee discussed the different options. Mr. Thielman noted that no one has spoken in favor of these alternates and that we as a committee asks HMFH to not move forward with these alternates. (no formal vote taken).

### **Exterior Discussion**

Mass Avenue Façade Draft Concepts Presented

In all the concepts, historic reuse of the columns and other historic elements are included.

#### **Historic Site Plan**

Existing Columns would be moved or recreated as an entry point. Would create an entry plaza.

Committee asks HMFH to rename this concept as “Traditional”.

#### **Auditorium Site Plan**

Auditorium Façade is a main focal point. Curved entrance relates to the main spine, allows transparency from front to back of the building.

#### **Sustainable Site Pan**

Moves the auditorium facing in to the main spine. Extended roofline is built to hold photovoltaics.

Photovoltaics visible from all angles of the building. Front facing façade of the auditorium, opportunity for a green wall. Field of columns in entry holding the photovoltaics.

#### **Education Site Plan –**

Very Straight central spine. Tower of stair cases front feature- Featured protruding classroom space is the discourse lab. Unique space to be highlighted. Eastern end of the site is gaining a considerable amount of green space (currently the sparking and drive).

The Committee discussed the following:

Have sections of the media space that are visually able to monitor, concerns with the amount of exterior transparency, would like to use the term ‘traditional’ over ‘historic’, find a design synergy between the

left and right wing, explore the impact of removing larger non-educational programmed spaces, need more detail on athletic spaces, keep entrance and access to the auditorium inside the school

Additionally:

- ◆ The committee would like to see modeling of the spine at the next meeting.
- ◆ Requested that HMFH provide another alternative that has a more traditional look to it. It would help the committee make a more informed decision.
- ◆ Requests that HMFH design an option that doesn't include columns.
- ◆ Explore a tiered parking garage (noting that MSBA will not support a parking garage) and acknowledging that it will be expensive.
- ◆ Confirmed that the No Amphitheater Courtyard – Alt 1. was ruled out. Alt “5” (previously called) will not be further explored.

The Superintendent and HS Principal and the Architects will discuss the performing arts programming.

### **Community Input-**

- ◆ Grant Cook –exterior has been discussed, but not the interior. See's the spine as a selling point and would like it advertised to the public.
- ◆ Chris -suggested moving the auditorium in the back, building the classroom wings first.
- ◆ HMFH noted - Committee felt that the auditorium would be missed in the front of the building.
- ◆ Unknown – Strengths of the scheme are the central corridor. Asks HMFH to start showing interior progress.

### **Finance Subcommittee Update**

Adam Chapdelaine reported that the subcommittee has been working on budget value engineering and will report out at the next meeting.

### **Communications Update**

Community Outreach – Senior Center outreach scheduled for tomorrow morning.

Community forum – October 24<sup>th</sup>, location has changed to Thompson School Gym.

### **New Business**

Sustainability Subcommittee –

Ryan Katofsky requested to be on the agenda for the next meeting for a full on MEP discussion.

Brian Rehrig moved to adjourn 8:40 seconded by Kate Loosian.

Notes taken by: Victoria Clifford, Skanska USA Inc

Submitted by:

Karen Tassone

Recording Secretary