



Somerville School Construction Advisory Group (CAG)

Meeting #1: October 8, 2024

Objectives



- ❖ Meet and get to know Construction Advisory Group (CAG) members
- ❖ Go over purpose of CAG
- ❖ Identify principles for a successful outcome of the work
- ❖ Discuss process and protocols
- ❖ Confirm future meeting dates/times

Agenda

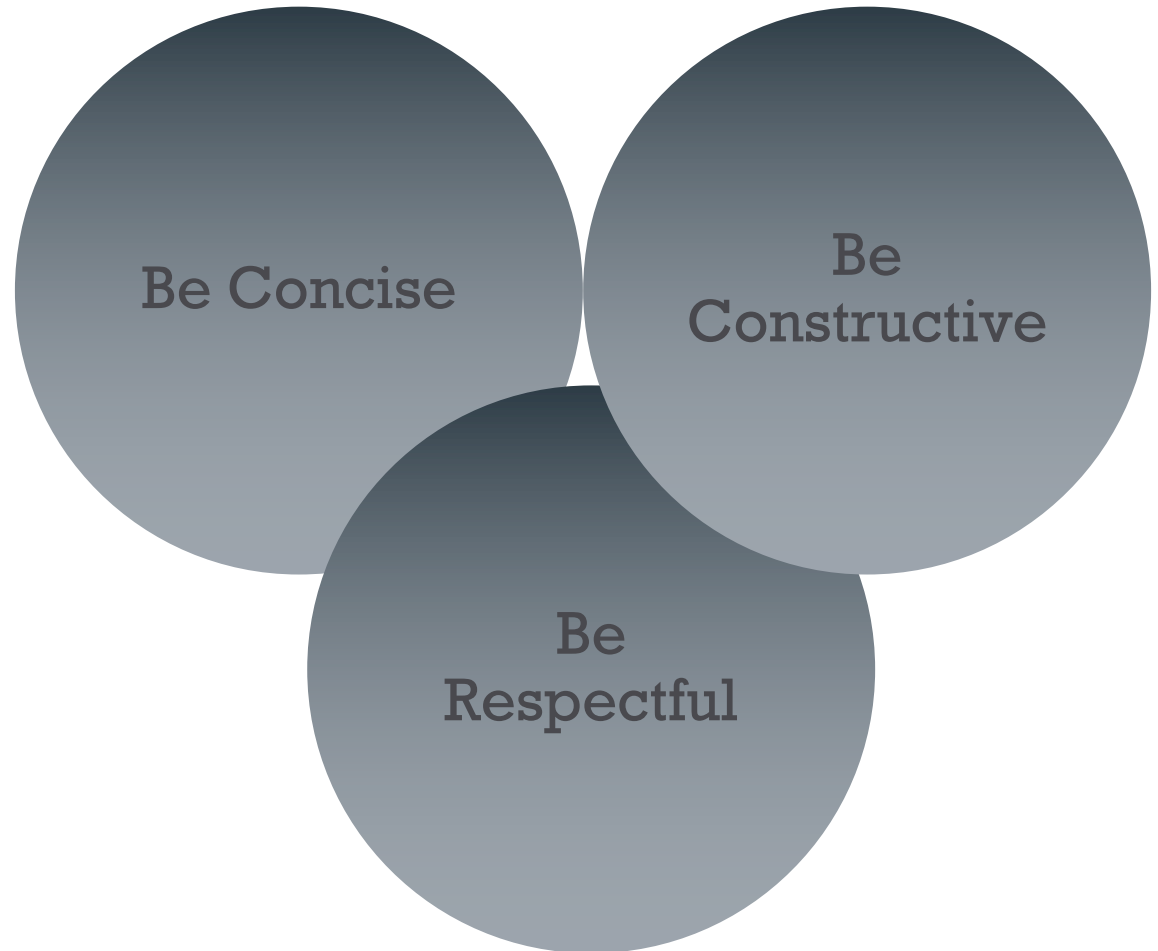


- 6:00 Welcome and Introductions
- 6:45 Process and Work Plan Overview
- 7:30 What Do We Want to Do? Envisioning a Successful Outcome
- 8:00 Overview Information Needs
- 8:15 Public Comment
- 8:25 Wrap Up and Next Steps
- 8:30 Adjourn

Initial Meeting Groundrules



*Please follow
these
throughout the
meeting so we
can achieve the
most productive
outcomes*



Planning Team



City of Somerville:

- Rich Raiche, Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management (IAM)
- Denise Taylor, Director of Communications & Community Engagement
- Nikki Spencer, Chief of Staff to Mayor Ballantyne, City of Somerville

Somerville Public Schools:

- Jackie Piques, Chief Communications & Development Officer
- Amara Anosike, Chief of Staff & Strategy

Facilitation Team:

- Stacie Smith, Managing Director, Consensus Building Institute (CBI)
- Meira Downie, Junior Associate, CBI

Consensus Building Institute



**Better negotiations.
Better decision making.
Better results.**

Fourteen Senior Mediators Working Internationally

OFFICES

Cambridge, MA
New York, NY
San Francisco, CA
Denver, CO
Washington, D.C.
Santiago, Chile
Montreal, Canada

Affiliated with
MIT-Harvard Public Disputes Program
MIT Department of Urban Studies and
Planning

Expertise

Energy, Environment &
Land Use
International
Development
Social Policy & Cultural
Resources
Corporate Community
Engagement
Organizational
Governance & Strategy
Commercial
Agreements

Services

Negotiation Audits
Training & Coaching
Strategic Advising
Issues & Stakeholder
Assessment
Process Design
Mediation
Facilitation
Stakeholder
Engagement
Research &
Evaluation

Internationally-Recognized Non-Profit

Founded in 1993

Mission: Empower stakeholders—public and private, government and community—to resolve issues, reach better more durable agreements, and build stronger relationships.

Welcome and Introductions



Members:

- Name
- Seat you are representing
- Something you would like your counterparts to know about you

Members So Far



Winter Hill Parent Representatives

- Cassie Walston (PTA)
- Matthew Daniels

Brown School Parent Representatives

- Ryan Williams (PTA)
- Marta Guerra Pastrian

SPS District Parent Representatives

- Emily Miyares
- Matthew Roberts

School Committee Representative

- Andre Green

Student Representative(s)

- TBA

City Council Representative

- Kristen Strezo

Community Group Representatives

Green New Deal for Somerville Schools

- Corey Donahue

Padres Latinos

- Paula Magnelli
- Gandhi Aldana

Business Community Representative

- Adam Portnoy
- Jack Connolly (alternate)

CAG Scope



Purpose: to help develop recommendations on the location and scope of the new school, which will be considered by the Mayor. This includes the following questions:

- If we build a new school rather than renovate the old Winter Hill School, should the school be located at the Winter Hill site at Sycamore Street, or elsewhere?
- Will the Brown School be included in a joint school, or, if not, how should we plan for the future of the Brown?
- What do these choices mean for the School District and City as a whole?

Mandate



To do this, the Advisory Group's job is to:

- include input from people with a broad range of perspectives and experiences from across the City
- build shared understanding about what the community wants, what the City and School District need, and what limits or issues they face
- help reach out to as many Somerville residents and families as possible, and listen to what they think is important through the Broad Public Process (see Broad Public Process description below)
- develop a range of effective and achievable options that meet the needs of the community, city, and school while following the MSBA process
- evaluate and narrow options based on community input and thoughtful deliberation, and;
- align on a best possible approach to bring to the Mayor and the School Building Committee (SBC) within the MSBA timeline.

Draft Process and Protocols



- Scope and Mandate
- Membership
- Decision Making
- Advisory Group Meetings
- Safeguards for Participation
- Facilitation
- Public Outreach and Engagement
- Broad Public Process
- Initial Work Plan and Schedule



CBI

CATALYZING COLLABORATION

Exercise: Defining Success



Imagine the process is complete and we are looking back at the success of our Advisory Group.

What will we have achieved?

- Individual thinking: take a few minutes to write down your thoughts
- Go-Around: Describe the impacts of this group's success

Information Needs



- Information about the culture, demographics, current conditions, enrollment, capacity, programs, space needs, curriculum requirements, and school and building programs at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School, the Brown School, and – as relevant – other district schools
- Community input collected via multiple methods by Winter Hill students, the Somerville Public Schools, and the broader community process
- Current and potential school travel and transportation information
- Overview of Somerville municipal finance, including operating and capital budgets, revenue generation, general fund capital needs, Climate Forward sustainability goals for school buildings, affordability issues, and debt exclusion override mechanics
- Other City and School fiscal, infrastructure, and building priorities, including capital investments, logistics, etc

Public Comment



- Please identify yourself - name and address
- Speak only to topics on today's agenda - the problem we are here to solve, the vision of success, the operating protocols, and information needs
- Please limit your comment to 1-2 minutes

Next Steps



- Standing meeting dates: 2nd Monday (except in November)
 - Tuesday November 12 – virtual
 - Monday December 9 – virtual
- What is the best start time? (~2.5 hr meeting)
- Project Website and email:
 - <https://www.somervillema.gov/cag>
 - cag@somervillema.gov



About CBI

CBI is a nonprofit organization with decades of experience helping leaders collaborate to solve complex problems.

Our staff are experts in facilitation, mediation, capacity building, citizen engagement, and organizational strategy and development. We are committed to using our skills to build collaboration on today's most significant social, environmental, and economic challenges. We work within and across organizations, sectors, and stakeholder groups.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: CBI.ORG

2067 Massachusetts Ave. Suite 570
Cambridge, MA 02140

Tel (617) 492-1414

CAMBRIDGE, MA

WASHINGTON, DC

NEW YORK, NY

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

DENVER, CO

SANTIAGO, CHILE

MONTRÉAL, CANADA