

**Winter Hill Community School
School Building Committee Meeting Minutes
November 03, 2025, 4:30PM – Virtual Via Zoom**

1. Call to Order 4:32

- The meeting was called to order. The roll call confirmed 10 members present.
- Members Present (in bold):
 1. **Ruben Carmona**,
 2. **Courtney Gosselin** (arrived after roll call)
 3. Kathleen Seward,
 4. **Edward Bean**
 5. **Jesse Clingan** (arrived after roll call)
 6. **Christopher Ames**,
 7. **Courtney Koslow**,
 8. **Emily Grandstaff-Rice**,
 9. **Daniel Grayton**,
 10. **Richard Heidebrecht**,
 11. **Suraj Rajbanshi**
 12. **Rich Raiche**
 13. Hon. Katjana Ballantyne
 14. **Andre Green**
 15. **Jill Lathan**
 16. Hanna Bao

2. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from the September 29, 2025, meeting was presented for approval.
 - **Corrections:**
 - Motion to Adjourn was made by Jill Lathan and seconded by Andre Green
- Roll call for:** Ruben Carmona, Courtney Gosselin, Edward Bean, Jesse Clingan, Christopher Ames, Courtney Koslow, Emily Grandstaff-Rice, Daniel Grayton, Richard Heidebrecht, Suraj Rajbanshi, Rich Raiche, Andre Green, Jill Lathan **Against:** none **Carried:** 13-0-0

3. Old Business:

MSBA and Construction Advisory Group (CAG) Progress and Schedule Update

RR provided an update: Over 2,500 people took the survey, it was a record for the city. Meeting will be reposted once audio issues are fixed.

<https://spsbuildings.org/construction-advisory-group/> The community fairly divided on whether to combine or not combine. Trum field location is very unpopular; the preferred location is Sycamore Street. Focus groups met with smaller groups of parents, non-parents, parent of special Ed ect. and there were differing opinions between those groups. There is another meeting on the 10th of November for

deliberation. We suspect one meeting will not be enough and a second meeting was scheduled for November 25th. The decision will likely be akin to a supreme court decision with a prevailing opinion and a dissenting opinion. The CAG was formed to provide community input on the location and the decision to combine the schools. This will also give insight into the way the Mayor is leaning. This project will need a debt exclusion vote, a process that is driven by the Mayor. This committee will explore the options and document that exploration, but we hope to have the Mayor option to help guide our decision.

CK asked if there was data based on who wanted to combine, i.e. did Brown families favor an independent Brown, and non Brown family favor a combined school? **RR** the data seem to indicate a bias for those affiliated with the brown school and wards 5 and 6 towards a separate brown school 1,2,3, and 7 favorites a combined school. High School Parents and Students favored a combined school.

CK asked with a new mayor, how does that tie in. **RR** stated that they are navigating that and will have a clearer picture after the election tomorrow. The current mayor understands that this decision will be ultimately made by the next mayor; any dissidence between the outgoing and incoming mayor will hurt that process.

AG found it interesting that that closer you were to either of the brown or winter, the more likely you were to support keeping the schools sperate, the further away the more combining was favored.

DG asked about Trum and how it ties into the MSBS process. **RR** stated that we do need to explore the site and ultimately explain why Trum was excluded. In the HS process, the Franey road site was included and the MSBA required additional information and a deep dive into review of that site. The Trum fields is Article 97 land and would require state approval. It is not an impossible task but would certainly be difficult.

SR asked if by the end of the second CAG meeting, a recommendation would be made to the Mayor, **RR** confirmed that this is the expected time line. The Winter Hill Community would really like to know what the decision so there is pressure to have this wrapped up.

4. New Business

- **Designer Contract** – The contract been agreed to and sent to the city. The city's procurement team is reviewing the contract.
- **Perkins Eastman Introduction/Presentation** – Dan Arons introduced the team. PE gave the presentation that was given to the MSBA at the DSP. Highlighting scaling, multilingual, sensory friendly and address urban challenges.

CK, thanked the team and expressed her excitement to have Perkins Eastman on board. **RC** echoed CK's words, appreciated the effort that went into the presentation and knew that there

would be community input; asked where kids go when it snows or during inclement weather, how does glass work with the security needs. **DA** looks forward to discussing the needs of the city and making sure the needs of Somerville are met. **AG** noted that school committee will be taking up school assignment next year.

Design schedule Starting this month, PDP the plan is to submit to the MSBA on 3/31. PSR will be submitted in August 26.

CK asked if this body will be the one to make the decision. **PMA** stated that this committee and the mayor need to come to consensus on the project when submitting it to the MSBA.

CK- stated that there is a conversation about acquiring St. Ann parish, is it already too late? **EGR** and **SB** explained that the MSBA would require proof of ownership of the property before project approval. It may be hard for the city to acquire the property within that timeline, for now the building will be planned without St, Ann's lot.

Bob Bell from Perkins Eastman presented the educational visioning. The process will engage the educational leadership team and education forum. The Leadership team will be small and charged with writing the educational plan and has already started to be formed. The forum is a larger group that will form consensus on an education vision for the new school. Phase 1 will be Immersion and Inspiration Nov 2025, it will include goal and mapping, program and experiential observations and school tours. Phase 2 in December will focus on Vision Development, Phase 3 in January will focus on programing and synthesis. **CK** asked is the forum would include the larger community. Perkins Eastman will engage the larger community thought forums to get feedback from a much larger audience.

4. Next Meeting

- **Dec 1, 2025, 4:30PM** and will be held virtual

5. Public Comment

- **Uma Murugan** asked if both sites would be investigated in the PDP and if one final site would be carried into the PSR? **EGR** explained that it is not just on which site, the MSBA process required the study of repairs, add/renovations and new builds.

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8. Adjournment

- A **motion** to adjourn was made by Daniel Grayton and seconded by Rich Raiche

Vote For: all for Ruben Carmona, Edward Bean, Jesse Clingan, Courtney Gosselin, Christopher Ames, Courtney Koslow, Emily Grandstaff-Rice, Daniel Grayton, Richard Heidebrecht, Suraj Rajbanshi, Rich Raiche, Andre Green, Jill Lathan.

Against: none

Minutes by: Sean Burke PMA Consultants 6:00PM