

SOMERVILLE NEW SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT
SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Virtual Meeting

Monday, August 17, 2026

Via Zoom

4:30pm

Members (15) – Present in bold:

Emily Grandstaff-Rice (Chair)

Jake Wilson, Mayor

Rich Raiche

Ruben Carmona

Courtney Gosselin

Ed Bean

Chris Ames

Daniel Grayton

Eric Weisman

Andre Green

Kathleen Seward

Jesse Clingan

Suraj Rajbanshi

Courtney Koslow

Rich Heidebrecht

Guests Present:

Khin Mar (CoS)

Ralph Henry (CoS)

Darryl Nash (SPS)

Danielle Barry (SPS)

Sean Burke (PMA)

Nick Masse (PMA)

Lisa Pecora (PE)

Dan Arons (PE)

Emily Ercolano (PE)

- **Call to Order – 4:32pm**
 - The Chair called the meeting to order
 - Roll call attendance was had.
- **Meeting Minutes**
 - Approve meeting minutes from August 3, 2026.
 - Rich Raiche motions to approve as presented. Daniel Grayton seconds the motion.
 - Discussion: none.
 - VOTE (roll call): 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 3 not present
 - Yes: Emily Grandstaff-Rice, Mayor Jake Wilson, Rich Raiche, Ruben Carmona, Courtney Gosselin, Chris Ames, Daniel Grayton, Andre Green, Jesse Clingan, Suraj Rajbanshi, Courtney Koslow, Rich Heidebrecht
 - No:
 - Abstain:
 - Not Present: Ed Bean, Eric Weisman, Kathleen Seward
- **Review Project Schedule & Workplan**
 - PE did an overview of the project timeline and workplan, showing where the project is at and what is ahead of us. PE highlighted the milestones within the project schedule.
 - PE noted that our next SBC meeting there will be a more detailed presentation on the schematic design workplan and schedule, so the committee understands what it entails.
 - Today's goal is to approve the submission of the PSR package to the MSBA.
- **Community Engagement Update**
 - PE highlighted the Back to School Fair on 8/25 and Civic Day on 9/10, both events the project team plans to attend.
 - PE noted that workshops and forums will be scheduled for October and November.
 - Mayor Jake Wilson recommended Ward-based meetings that will be in late September, and may make sense to have presence at wards of interest. PE agreed to that notion and will discuss details with the City.
- **New Business**
 - Inspirational Examples
 - PE presented some similar spaces of similar schools and what the design may feel and look like in the future of the new school building. PE explained why some of these designs have been successful in the past.
 - PE presented daylight classroom studies on what areas of the building best receive daylight and that PE is continuing to work how to maximize daylight in the school classrooms and spaces.
 - Committee member asked if there has been thought given for the areas that do not receive the most daylight, if we want to send our youngest learners to these spaces. PE responded that it is set up that the youngest grades have the easiest access to outdoor play space, but they are confident they can meet the challenge to achieve more daylight into the specific spaces.
 - PE noted they will be explaining their design decisions as they go along so they are receiving the committee's input.
 - Review Compiled PSR Package
 - PE opened the floor to any committee member that would like to discuss or have questions on the PSR compiled package they received in advance of this meeting for review.

- Committee member noted that the work was well put together and appreciate the design team's responsiveness to the committee's requests.
- Committee member asked about best practices – how to review this document and make sure it contains everything the MSBA is looking for and how do we know we are providing all required deliverables. PE and PMA responded that that there is a checklist of deliverables required, we have cursory reviews by the MSBA, as well as coordination meetings to ensure we are accounting for all required deliverables.
- Chair asked what's coming up for project team. PE noted that the Facilities Assessment Subcommittee meeting of the MSBA, and present the educational program to the MSBA, along with a summary of what will be presented, with a rigorous agenda for the team to present. PE then noted the MSBA Board is on October 28th for the approval to move into the next Module, Schematic Design, and making sure when we submit the PSR on time will keep us on the MSBA schedule to meet for that Board meeting.
- Vote to Approve PSR Submission to the MSBA
 - Andre Green motions to approve the PSR submission to the MSBA. Courtney Koslow seconds the motion.
 - VOTE (roll call): 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 3 not present
 - Yes: Emily Grandstaff-Rice, Mayor Jake Wilson, Rich Raiche, Ruben Carmona, Courtney Gosselin, Chris Ames, Daniel Grayton, Andre Green, Jesse Clingan, Suraj Rajbanshi, Courtney Koslow, Rich Heidebrecht
 - No:
 - Abstain:
 - Not Present: Ed Bean, Eric Weisman, Kathleen Seward
 - Chair then asked what takes place in the interim, and City noted that we are considering additional items of design with parking, mass timber, etc, and we will continue to work and meet on those topics while we are awaiting MSBA process, and believes we should still meet on a monthly cadence, which the Chair and the committee agreed.
 - Chair proposed next meeting to be Monday, September 21st @ 4:30 virtually, as this meeting will be after the Facilities Assessment Subcommittee meeting, which can be a beneficial update to the committee.

- **Public Comment**

- The Chair opened it up to the public for any comments.
 - Marc Levy: stated he has issues with School Committee posted notices. He stated that he does not believe it is properly noticed, and there is no meeting on the calendar for a meeting tonight. He lastly noted that the calendar item is on city calendar but believes that meeting took place at 12 noon, and not tonight.
 - Superintendent responded that today's meeting at 12:00 noon was a School Committee retreat and that tonight is a special meeting, which was sent it within the first 48 hours. School Committee member and Chair responded as well supporting the Super, where the Chair noted where to find the information of the amended agenda and where it is posted for the special meeting tonight.

- **Adjournment**

- Vote to Adjourn

- Rich Raiche motions to adjourn. Daniel Grayton seconds the motion.
 - VOTE (roll call): 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 3 not present
 - Yes: Emily Grandstaff-Rice, Mayor Jake Wilson, Rich Raiche, Ruben Carmona, Courtney Gosselin, Chris Ames, Daniel Grayton, Andre Green, Jesse Clingan, Suraj Rajbanshi, Courtney Koslow, Rich Heidebrecht
 - No:
 - Abstain:
 - Not Present: Ed Bean, Eric Weisman, Kathleen Seward

Minutes Signed by:

NAME: Nicholas Masse, PMA Consultants

DATE: 08/19/2026