

**Town of Watertown
School Building Committee
Administration Building, Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chambers
Three Elementary School Projects
Wednesday, September 18, 2019
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

M I N U T E S

Committee Members Present: Mark Sideris, (chair), John Portz (vice-chair), Paul Anastasi, Dede Galdston, Lori Kabel, Kelly Kurlbaum, Lindsay Mosca, Leo Patterson, Tom Tracy, Heidi Perkins, and Vinnie Piccirilli

Others Present: Scott Dunlap, Julie, Mike, and Vivian (architectural team, Ai3 Architects), Maureen Foley (Winthrop Street), Brian Hebeisen (Worcester Street/Environment & Energy Efficiency Committee), Pat Rathbone, Elodia Thomas (Marion Road)

1. Call to Order

Mark Sideris called the School Building Committee to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Design Update on Hosmer School and Cunniff School

Hosmer School

Scott Dunlap presented a design update of the exterior of the Hosmer School and shared samples of exterior wood and metal finishes.

Julie presented a visual “walk-through” of the Hosmer School, which included the K-5 entry, weather tight and security vestibules, main lobby, administration office, student support suite, and academic wing.

Committee comments

Mark Sideris asked about the proposed finishes and life expectancy of those finishes. Scott Dunlap answered that proposed finishes have same life expectancy as other products used in the past, but they are also in line with environmental requirements. Lori Kabel inquired about repairing/patching of proposed finishes. Scott Dunlap replied that he is recommending that graphic patterns be used on sheet vinyl, in order to hide patching. Julie added that walls and floors will be of a neutral color. Scott Dunlap explained that they are recommending the use of sheet vinyl because it can be used throughout and does not require waxing. Samples of wood tone sheet vinyl were distributed to the committee. John Portz asked if there would be spectator seating space in the gym. Scott Dunlap replied that there is not and that is typical for elementary schools. John Portz also asked about the doors – purpose of double set of doors, whether there would be automatic doors, and door to courtyard. Julie explained that the

double set of doors was for security and protection from the elements and there would be automatic doors for handicapped access. She also explained that the door leading to the courtyard is a bi-folding overhead door. Paul Anastasi commented on the placement of the kitchenette in the main office and suggested that it should be hidden. John Portz agreed.

Public comments

Elodia Thomas questioned the idea of students storing personal belongings outside of the classroom. Scott Dunlap responded that there will also be a storage zone inside the classrooms for more valuable personal items. Bigger, bulkier items would be stored outside the classroom. Julie added that there will be security cameras. Maureen Foley commented that vinyl sheeting is used in hospitals, so she thinks it will be fine in schools. She also asked about a sound barrier for the entryway. Julie responded that an acoustic consultant is reviewing the drawings and will be giving feedback. Pat Rathbone asked about the school kitchen. Scott Dunlap answered that there are no details yet; they are waiting for cost estimates.

Cunniff School

Scott Dunlap presented the design update for the Cunniff School. He highlighted that vertical sun shading was added on classroom areas. He also pointed out adjustments made to student dining area, the use of wood material up high and the use of stone down low and around the entire base of the building, as well as subtle, but significant, adjustments to the entry area and corner of the building.

Mike presented a visual “walk-through” of the Cunniff School interior. He presented the modifications made to the collaboration space that could also double as storage/display. He explained that a main goal is to showcase LEED and sustainability points. He also described the opportunity for a two-floor accent wall for branding/signage. Scott Dunlap added that there is a consultant who will help come up with branding ideas.

Committee comments

Vinnie Piccirilli asked about the secondary vestibule going into gym, would it be used for getting into the gym after hours, and how would the rest of the school be secured/closed off. Scott Dunlap answered that they would need to take a look at the elements involved, but would probably have to close some of the open elements in order to achieve that. Lindsay Mosca commented that she likes the newer, more open version of the collaboration area, but that it feels like children are sitting in bookshelves. She prefers the rounder features. She also commented that she really likes the floor patterns, as shown. Scott responded that soft seating was not shown in the new version in order to show the exterior feature wall. Mark Sideris asked if the new seating could be pulled out from the wall a bit, in order to differentiate it. Scott answered that it could be done, as well as soft seating. John Portz asked whether there is a sound barrier in the gym. Mike answered that there will be double-stud walls, as well as the divider curtain. John Portz also asked whether the platform in the student dining area is permanent. Scott Dunlap replied that it is a one-step riser that can also be used as a stage.

Community comments

Jimmy Mello expressed concern about a piece of iron in the storage area, and that students could potentially walk into it and get hurt. Scott Dunlap explained that the purpose is to expose the way the building is constructed, to help students learn about components. He added that this is a theme throughout both schools. Brian Hebeisen expressed his surprise at how much vinyl flooring use is proposed, in terms of manufacturing, potential direct effects on children, health concerns, and disposing of vinyl flooring, as well as toxic gases produced in case of fire. He was wondering if Ai3 is looking at environmentally better options. Scott Dunlap answered that vinyl flooring technology is much improved from even five years ago, and that the only vinyl manufacturers looked at meet LEED requirements. A more environmentally friendly product, like bamboo, would not last long enough in a school.

3. Approval of Invoices

There were no invoices needing approval.

4. High School Update

Dede Galdston was excited to announce that Ai3 was chosen as the designer for the Watertown High School project. Contract negotiation and feasibility study are upcoming.

5. Schedule Next Meeting

Mark Sideris announced that the next meeting will be held on October 2, 2019, in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chambers.

6. Adjournment

Vinnie Piccirilli made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded Tom Tracy. All were favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.