BERKSHIRE HILLS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Great Barrington Stockbridge West Stockbridge

MONUMENT MOUNTAIN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE (SBC) MEETING

In-Person/Virtual

November 1, 2023 – 5:30 PM

In-Person Location : District Office Professional Development Room, 50 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Stockbridge, MA
Virtual Location: (Public attendance) Zoom (details provided on meeting agenda)*

Attendees

SBC Members:
Present: Stephen Bannon-School Committee Chair, Peter Dillon-Superintendent, Kristina Farina-MMRHS Principal, Bill Fields-Retired Teacher/School Committee, Eric Gabriel- Community Member, Steven Soule-Director of Operations, Kara Staunton-Shron-Teacher/ Librarian, Stephen Shatz-Community Member, Jason St. Peter-Building Committee Chair/School Committee, Daniel Bailly-Community Member, Diane Singer- School Committee Member
Absent: Stephen Boyd-Community Member, Sharon Harrison-Business Administrator, Jamie Goldenberg-Community Member, Lily Haskins-Vaughn-Student, Kate Van Olst, Community Member, Amanda Timpane, Community Member,

Other Attendees:
Corey Sprague-School Committee; Sarah Bourla-School Committee;

Owner Project Manager (OPM):
John Benzinger, Nick Lobik, Victoria Clifford (Skanska USA Building, Inc.)

Meeting Opened: 5:30PM
Steve Soule opened the meeting and welcomed the Skanska team.

Skanska Update

- John Benzinger, Skanska, asked if everyone received the 9/27/23 Meeting Minutes and were prepared to approve them.
    - Due to not all committee members receiving a copy to review, the committee decided to hold off on approved until the next meeting. Stephen Bannon explained that all future meeting documents will be posted to the SBC's shared google drive.
- **Schedule Update:**
    - John gave a high-level overview of the feasibility schedule and upcoming designer selection process.
- **Designer Selection Update:**
    - Nick Lobik, Skanska, noted that the Designer RFP is under review with SBC leadership, and the goal is to have it posted to the central registrar by tomorrow, 11/2/2023. The designer site walk will follow on 11/15, any questions will be due from designers by 11/29, and proposals will be due 11/29.
    - John asked who from the District will help lead designer site walk and suggested that key facilities personnel be included.
        - Steven Soule to follow up with the Skanska team.
    - Skanska asked if there were any questions on the designer selection process.

        - It was asked how much weight is placed on the designer's aesthetics when selecting the design team.
        - John answered that it is considered to an extent. But, it is not a main consideration the District has expressed a certain desire. John added that most new high schools are modern and sustainable, highlighting photovoltaics.
- **MSBA Funding Update:**
    - John reported the MSBA's Project Funding Limit increase from $393 to $565 per sq foot. John noted that by statute only able to increase by 6% annually. Potentially, MMRHS will be eligible for an additional $33 per sq. foot.
    - John noted that the East Longmeadow HS project received an additional $19M in funding due to this increase.
    - John cautioned that construction costs continue to rise despite this increase in MSBA funding.
- **Communications:**
    - Victoria Clifford, Skanska, reported that she would like to begin working with the District to create a web presence for the project and to begin planning for future community forum and community outreach early in the feasibility process.
        - Peter Dillon confirmed that the District will look to hire a web developer to create a new page for the project.
        - Victoria to follow up with web developer information from the Arlington HS Project.
        - Peter added that the District is undergoing a brand update which should be complete within the next 6 months.
    - Victoria asked what the main media outlets were for District news.
        - The Eagle, Berkshire Edge, Local Yokal, and a District newsletter (name pf newsletter not recorded), and CTSP (local news organization) were among the few listed by committee members.
    - Victoria suggested recording SBC meetings and future forums as a way for community members to view meetings and important presentations at their leisure.
    - Victoria to issue a draft Communications Plan prior to the next SBC meeting.
    - John noted that a common theme with similar communities' is the cost benefit of a new school vs. renovation. John explained that the general perception is that renovating existing schools is more cost effective than constructing new. However, MSBA reimbursement is very minimal for base repair projects. There is much greater value for the communities to build new and get what is needed for their future.

New Business

- **Upcoming meetings:**
    - Designer Selection Subcommittee Meeting:
        - December 12th, 2:30 PM – 5:30 PM
        - The subcommittee will review designer proposals
        - Skanska to request hard copies for all members and perform evaluations and reference checks.
    - MSBA Designer Selection Panel:
        - 1/26/24, call to order at 8:30 AM, MMRHS Application Review at 10:15 AM.
    - Next SBC Meeting:
        - 1/17/24 Next SBC Meeting
        - Skanska suggested meeting monthly moving forward

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:19 PM.