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FA - FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Middleborough School Committee believes that an educational program is influenced greatly by the environment in which it functions. The development of a quality educational program and of school facilities that help implement that program must go hand in hand.

Therefore, it is the Committee's goal to provide the facilities needed for the number and educational requirements of students in the school district and to provide the kind of facilities that will best support the educational program. To best use local resources, it is the Committee's intent, wherever possible, to partner with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Recognizing that school facilities are long-term community investments, the Committee will develop projects that reflect cost-effective designs, are consistent with good engineering practice, and use high quality construction, with attention to current and future technological practices for students, faculty, and school staff. Sites will be chosen to meet the educational need, maximize the use of any available community resources, and minimize any possible adverse education, environmental, social, or economic impacts on the community.

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 70B

963 CMR 2.00

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School Committee Reviewed January 2025

FA-E - FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Facilities

(1) Every new school which is to be constructed and every addition to an existing school or program for modernization of an existing school shall be designed or planned so as to ensure that the educational opportunities to be offered within that school following its construction or expansion or reconstruction will be available equally to all students thereof without regard to ge, color, creed, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, genetic information, homelessness, marital status, national origin, political affiliation, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, veteran or military status, or any other basis protected by federal and/or state law.

(2) The goal of each school shall be to provide equal numbers of males and females with those facilities and conveniences within a school which are separated for reasons of privacy, e.g. showers, locker rooms, changing rooms, toilets and lavatories. Any school to be constructed shall make such provision and any plan for the expansion or modernization of an existing school shall include whatever provision is necessary in order to achieve compliance with 963 CMR 2.00.

CROSS REF: AC - NOTICE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

LEGAL REF.: 963 CMR 2.00

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FCB - RETIREMENT OF FACILITIES

When a school building becomes inadequate by virtue of age, condition, size of site, lack of need, or other overriding limitations, and cannot reasonably and economically be brought up to the current educational standards; the building should be considered for a comprehensive closing study. The Superintendent will recommend to the School Committee which facilities appear to justify further analysis.

The School Committee may seek both professional advice and the advice of the community in making its recommendations as to the retirement of any school facility. This will permit the public, which originally acquired the property, to benefit from its recycling or retirement.

A closing study will include direct involvement by those neighborhoods considered in the study and will be concerned with all or some of the following factors:

1. Age and current physical condition of the facilities, its operating systems, and program facilities.

2. Adequacy of site, location, access, surrounding development, traffic patterns, and other environmental conditions.

3. Reassignment of children, including alternative plans according to Committee policy.

4. Transportation factors, including numbers of children bussed, time, distance, and safety.

5. Alternative uses of the building.

6. Cost/Savings

    a. Personnel
    b. Plant Operation
    c. Transportation
    d. Capital Investment
    e. Alternative Use

7. Continuity of instructional and community programs.

Upon the closing or retirement of a facility, dedications or memorials contained within said facility and grounds shall be acknowledged within any new facility as a means of honoring our past in accordance with the design of the new facility.

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FF- NAMING NEW FACILITIES

Naming a school is an important matter that deserves thoughtful attention. Personal prejudice or favoritism, political pressure, or temporary popularity should not be an influence in choosing a school name. A name with educational significance or inspiration should be chosen. The Committee also feels that it is appropriate to name schools for physical locations; geographical areas; distinguished local, state, and national leaders whose names will lend dignity and stature to the school; or significant or pertinent events.

The Superintendent will prepare for the approval of the Committee a procedure to follow in recommending names for school buildings to the School Committee in accordance with policy FF-R Procedure for Naming Facilities. Whenever possible, the wishes of the community, including parents and students, should be considered in naming new facilities.

It is expected that an orderly, announced procedure will lessen the community or factional pressures that so quickly build up when the selection is delayed or seems uncertain. A prompt decision will reduce disappointments and advance community solidarity. Much confusion in accounts, files, and records can be avoided if a new school can be identified by name before the planning starts.

When a new school building is under consideration, or a request is made to name a part of the school, the School Committee will solicit nominations for its consideration.

CROSS REF: FF-R - PROCEDURE FOR NAMING FACILITIES

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FF-R - PROCEDURE FOR NAMING FACILITIES

On occasion, the Middleborough Public Schools may determine that it is appropriate to name or dedicate a school or any specific part or location of the buildings or grounds of a school. Naming a school or any portion of a school facility is an important matter that deserves thoughtful attention. A school community is a "living organization" that passes through many growth cycles and it is important that sensitivity to all constituents be considered. When considering names of persons, preference is to be given to those having had substantial impact upon the education of Middleborough's children. However, this is not to preclude consideration of other persons of local, state, national, or international achievement.

Names of persons currently employed by the Middleborough Public Schools shall not be considered during the term of employment or until three years after. School Committee members may not initiate a request during their term of office or for two years after. Personal prejudice, favoritism, political pressure, or temporary popularity should not be an influence in choosing a name.

Therefore, the Middleborough School Committee designates the following procedures to be used when naming or dedicating a school or any portion of a school facility:

- Naming or dedication requests shall be submitted in writing to the Superintendent, or any member of the School Committee, setting forth the name with sufficient biographical and/or other information for the full School Committee to consider. In order to receive such an honor, individuals or groups must:
    - In the case of a former employee, have ended his/her employment relationship with the Middleborough Public Schools at least three (3) years prior to the request for consideration and have been employed by Middleborough Public Schools at least ten (10) years.
    - Receive the recommendation of the current administrative head of the building (or the building in which the room is located) and the school council of the school, if applicable, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at a regularly scheduled meeting.
- At the direction of the School Committee, the Superintendent will place the dedication request on the agenda of a regular School Committee meeting for a first reading.
- The School Committee may appoint a study committee whose members represent a cross-section of interested parties related to that area of the facility, such as students, teachers, and community members. It shall not be the responsibility of the study committee to make a final choice but to bring forward a recommendation to the Superintendent. The study committee recommendations shall be based upon the established district criteria as noted below.
- At a time determined by the School Committee, members of the school district community and/or public will be invited to appear before the School Committee to speak on the expressed intent of the School Committee in this regard.
- After such time, the Superintendent will recommend a formal motion on the agenda of an upcoming School Committee meeting for a vote.

    - The group or individual recommended for the honor must be approved by the School Committee by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at a regularly scheduled meeting.
- After a successful vote, arrangements to officially name or dedicate a school or particular part or location of a school facility will be made in a reasonable amount of time.

The selection of individuals distinguished by naming a school building or facility in their honor, or by placing their name in a location of honor, as well as the specific means by which the individuals are recognized, shall be at the sole discretion of the Middleborough School Committee.

Criteria to be Used for Naming School Facilities

The study committee shall utilize the following criteria in developing their recommendation:

Residency:

The person is/was a resident of, or long-time contributor to, the Middleborough Public Schools. Related information may include whether the person was born in town, attended Middleborough Public Schools, etc.

Contributions:

How the person contributed to the uniqueness of the school district specifically, what they did?

How the person made a significant contribution to education?

How they contributed to the balance of academics, athletics, and the arts?

How they contributed to the quality of the school facilities (specific to the area being named/renamed and/or in general)?

In what way did their actions preserve many Middleborough Public Schools values — caring, pride, work ethic, tenacity, service to others, contribution to the quality of life, etc.?

How did their actions contribute to our pride in this community, as well as the specific area being considered?

How did the person display teamwork?

How did the person bring honor to the Middleborough Public Schools?

Personal Attributes:

What were his/her connections with children? How did the person's actions demonstrate this? What describes the character of the person?

Were they a role model? How, in what ways?

What were examples of demonstrated acts of a person's emphasis on the universal focus on the whole system (rather than one area of interest)?

Dedication to the Welfare of Children:

How is life in the Middleborough Public Schools enhanced by their contribution?

How did their contribution enhance education in Middleborough? How did their contributions encourage the preparation of children for the future? (Directly or indirectly)

Motivation:

How did the person display selflessness?

What aspects of volunteerism were evident?

What was the person's length of service (in terms of both time and quality of contributions)?

"WOW" Factor:

Evidence that the person did not "settle for average".

How does the person and his/her acts 'work tenaciously for greatness"?

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FFA - MEMORIALS

The School Committee recognizes that the death of a student, member of the staff, or prominent community member is deeply felt by the school community. As places designed primarily to support learning, school sites should not serve as the main venue for permanent memorials. A school community is a "living organization" that passes through many growth cycles and it is important that sensitivity to all constituents be considered.

Permanent memorials within the schools shall be limited in form to perpetual awards or scholarships.

Any permanent memorials in existence before the adoption of this policy can only be removed by a vote of the School Committee.

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