



Franklin School Building Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes Thursday 11/02/23 at 6:00 PM
Zoom Meeting

School Building Committee Members	CHA – Owner’s Project Manager
Jonathan Yeo Emily Prenner Josh Morse Mark Chitty Ayesha Farag Maureen Lemieux Anping Shen Paul Levy Liam Hurley Andrea Kelley Julia Malakie Pam Wright Aaron Goldman Jessica Allen	Tom Gatzunis Amanda Sawyer Aditya Modi
	Working Group
	Stephanie Gilman David Stickney Alex Valcarce Maura Tynes
	HMFH Architects
	James Liebman Melissa Greene

1. Welcome Public

2. Project Discussion

Josh gave opening remarks and opens the floor to questions from public.

Jeff Keenan (Clark Rd resident):

- We were aware about the school project, but not the design about which we just found out.
- What was the process to arrive at the final design? It did not keep abutters in mind or take their inputs.
- Dumpster just 20FT from my bedroom and we will be disturbed because of noise.
- Disappointed as was not directly involved and no influence in the process.
- Design considered without thinking about swing space.
- New school very close to building and kids will get disturbed due to noise.

Josh:

- Dumpsters not at the back, they are near service entrance.
- Swing space option has not been eliminated.
- Once the final design is selected, swing space option will be discussed.

Jeff Keenan:

- We are in perception that not having to move to swing space is the main selling point for option A2.

Rick Sheiber (Abutter):

- No letters have been received.
- No input from abutters taken.
- We get afternoon sun from that side which will now be covered by the new building.
- Kids studying in school during construction is not good.

Josh:

- Hazmat will be tested & have been tested.
- Community outreach: We did email blast, mails in spring 2022 & 2023, Principal sent out info to parent groups, social media.

Adele Hararsis (Abutter):

- I'm a Franklin graduate.
- Strongly upset about lack of communication.
- Received one letter about possible construction and found about it from our neighbors.
- Why was it decided to construct on fields and not on it's current location?
- Also, dropoff area will be different.

Gordon Kolise (Abutter):

- I remember emails about plan to build the school, but unaware about design options.
- Why were no door-to-door information flyers distributed?
- School should be as close to Derby St. as possible.
- Can the school height be dropped on West side & increased on East side?

Liz R. (Derby St. abutter):

- Baffled with putting the building on the fields. Will there be enough space for students to play?
- Dropoff will be right outside my house now.

Eileen Kurkoski (Abutter):

- Strongly hope Franklin will be re-built with proper insulation, flexible classroom sizes where rooms can be partitioned into 15-30 students.
- Ceilings should be less than 10FT and gym height should be lower for efficiency.
- Also, plan for Emergency shelter.

Josh:

- Building designed to last for very long. Keeping all design in mind.
- Net zero target
- Aggressive energy use intensity.

Eileen:

- Solar may not be our answer anymore after 30 years. Need to have lower ceilings.

David:

- Not against the new building.
- Why was option B1 dismissed & A2 favored?
- Worried about kids in school besides the construction zone and will lack educational experience. Kids safety might be compromised.
- We have completed another projects using swing space. B1 is accessible.
- Abutters not involved in the process.
- A1 option- Clark Rd abutters will lose light.

Emilie Chang (Abutter):

- Seeing the building in front of my bedroom window and that is why not a fan of the design.
- What is water table on West side of field? We face issues every time as it is high in this area.

Josh:

- Not digging down, slab on grade for foundation.
- We will be improving water damage.

Daniel:

- Design has impact on neighborhood, and we will lose our neighborhood feeling.

Josh:

- Dumpsters not near abutters property.
- We will be working on bringing the building farther away from abutters as well as bringing the height down will be explored.
- The tight distance with existing school building will be explored too.
- Lights will be set up such that they don't disturb abutters.
- Accessibility wise, A1 is best.
- Grade is very high on east side.
- B1 was very challenging in terms of accessibility.
- To make B1 accessible, 50 Cu. Yd. will have to be removed.
- Also, very costly & high environmental impact and would have to construct a retaining wall.
- Challenges with B1: Bus stand, vehicular traffic, location of entrance.
- A2 provided better open fields & separates baseball & Soccer fields.

Josh started sharing the matrix and discussing about it.

Jeff:

- Need to consider kids being in school on construction zone as part of matrix.

Andrea Kelly:

- Allows students to remain in existing school through construction should be a weighted question.

Liz R:

- Vehicles speeding on Derby.

Josh:

- Cross walks will be constructed on Derby St.

David:

- On the account of Optimize stormwater resiliency, what is the difference between B2 vs A1?
- How is B1 not considered max. utilization of site?

Josh:

- B1 more centrally located thus provides less space around it.

David:

- How will recess time be affected during construction?

Josh:

- We will coordinate with the Principal to provide required area for recess time.

Jeff Keenan:

- Under community impact, formally request to include impact on abutters in the matrix.

Josh:

- B1 & B2 are very identical.

Adele:

- Would be difficult to run a class with construction going on in the vicinity.

Josh:

- Swing space will be explored if required.

Rick:

- Keeping children in existing school will prolong the construction vs using the swing space.

Josh:

- All options will be explored.

Michael Halle:

- Corner of 1 looks closer to abutter than existing footprint. We should talk about that.

Josh:

- Yes, that is true as we need to design for accessibility.

Aaron Goldman:

- Any thoughts about constructions during vacation for section near existing school in A2?

Josh:

- 2 options- work on that option in summer or in winter when windows closed due to cold.

Jeff Keenan:

- Swing space discussion should be held as a forum.

Meeting Adjourned.