



**Franklin School Building Committee Meeting**

Meeting Minutes Thursday 11/16/23 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
	<b>Working Group</b>
	Stephanie Gilman David Stickney Alex Valcarce Maura Tynes
	<b>HMFH Architects</b>
	James Liebman Melissa Greene

**1. Welcome Public**

**2. Project Discussion**

Melissa from HMFH Architects started sharing the presentation. Josh provided brief intro about the matrix.

Melissa gives a quick run-thru of the presentation and provides overview about different buckets & options. She also provided a detailed overview of option B1.

- Building on east side of the plot. Has challenges with parking. Would still use entry through Cherry St. Overlapping fields which is not ideal.

Josh gives pointers on why A2 scores highest.

- Accessibility was the biggest advantage, green space. Safe pedestrian and bicycle circulation, cost effective, sustainability, bus drop-off and blue zone.
- Would need to remove 50,000 Cu. Yd. of soil to make options B2 and B1 comparable to A2 which would be costly.

Melissa presented an overview on option A2 and provided some considerations.

- The shortest distance from the new school to the boundary is approx. 29' which can be extended to 39' by bringing the building 10ft to the south.

Amanda Kovalcik showed support for A2 & provided her comments. Very eager to move forward.

Peter: Looks like there are some exits between the existing building and the new building and just want to make sure that those exits are secured during construction.

Melissa: Yes, those exits will be closed off and the school will be provided with another exit.

Geoff Keenan: Thanks for delaying the vote and taking our inputs. I don't consider myself interrupting the process by being late. Not only do my children go to Franklin School, but I will hopefully be living in this house for a long, long time. and I don't want my neighbors and I to be unfairly characterized as delaying this for no good reason. We have a very good reason for asking the questions that we have. So, I just want to clear that up and also mentioned again. Josh, I know, been a very vocal member via email.

Josh Morse: We understand your concerns and we know that you just finished a beautiful renovation on your home.

Mike Halle: We 100% support people weighing in and we encourage it even though it may slow down the project because it is very important for everyone to have their voice heard.

Rick Sheiber: There was also this, this talks about the possibility of moving the orientation of the school clockwise. And I was just wondering, I'm guessing that's not represented here in A2 right now. But I was wondering how that affects like, yeah, the proximity to the to the Clark Road residents.

Josh: All that will be brought into consideration at the DRC meetings and will be discussed.

Ben Hayes: Shows support for A2. Seems like it is going to be the best option for the kids.

Heather Lockrow: Also wanted to voice support for A2. I'm a Franklin mom and a teacher. A2 would be the best option for the teachers, and it should be considered. It will eliminate the need for swing school as it is best for the kids to stay in the school rather than shuttling off to swing school.

David Donahue: Have my doubts about A2. Safety aspect about keeping the students in the existing school 10ft from construction zone. Also, there is history associated with the Franklin school for this community. How is it going to address the 85 years of children who have attended this school myself included and have buried time capsules in multiple places on this field. Also, trees have been planted for students who have passed away. Will the solar panels be put in the parking lot in future. Can we get a commitment that it will be off the table?

Josh: We will document all existing conditions. Inventory about time capsules, memorial trees and monuments will be done. Will try to salvage as much as we can and document that cannot be salvaged. For solar car ports, can't say anything about the future but nothing has been planned for now. If it will be included in future, it will require a vote of city council.

David: Putting the solar on the roof of the building?

Josh: Yes, we will be putting solar on the roof of the building.

Aaron Goldman: I don't want people to have the impression that because a vote didn't happen 2 weeks ago, or if it happens 2 weeks from now that that's somehow delaying the ultimate start of construction completion of construction.

Josh: That is correct. If hypothetically, we didn't get a vote by the next meeting. I would be raising the red flags at that point, saying that we're starting to impact schedule but 2 weeks on a project of this duration even 4 weeks is something that we can recover, and it's kind of noise on a very long chart.

Josh opens the floor for comments/questions from the School Building Committee members.

Emily Prenner: Support A2 as it includes all school programs required.

Jonathan Yeo: getting everyone involved in the process is really invaluable.

Anping Shen: Appreciate the whole process. Appreciate the Design team being open minded. Overall, A2 is the outstanding option, I think. Great job done by Josh and team. What are the next steps and timeline?

Josh: Depends on when the SBC takes vote. We have the DRC meeting on 12/13/23. If the votes happen tonight, then we will go directly into the DRC. After it goes into DRC, there will 12-16 months of Design work, getting permits, votes, 3-4 months of design development and 9 month of construction documents. We will also take into consideration whether to have children in the existing school or move to swing space.

Anping Shen: Can you share the Project milestones? And can it be shared with the abutters and parents?

Josh: We can share it once we have a vote in the SBC.

Rick Sheiber: Is the DRC committee formed/ Can anyone be a part of it still?

Josh: So, there's 2 ways on to the Design Review committee. There are regularly appointed members, and others are appointed by the city council, some are appointed by the school committee, and some are appointed by Mayor Fuller. Those positions are all full. On each project, there are members of the community that are selected to be voting members as well which are filled. Mike Halley, who's on the meeting tonight is one of them, for example. So, we're rounded out at this point, but as but I certainly will keep folks informed as we do occasionally have people who move away or become busy in life and positions do open. But I really do mean it. If you come to those meetings, you get an equal seat at the table. We want your voice heard and your suggestions and opinions really matter.

Emily Prenner: Put the motion to approve A2 in front of SBC to move forward.

Councillor Kelly has seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Design Review meeting will meet on December 13, 2023, at 6 PM.

Meeting Adjourned.