

DRISCOLL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – BROOKLINE, MA	MEETING MINUTES Approved June 25, 2020
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DRISCOLL SCHOOL BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE	May 21, 2020
Location:	Online GoToMeeting
Time:	7:30 AM

Name	Assoc.	Present
Susan Wolf Dittkoff	Town of Brookline, Co-Chair SBS, PSB	Y
Heather Hamilton	Town of Brookline, Co-Chair SBC, TOB Board of Selectmen	Y
Karen Breslawski	Building Commission	Y
Ken Kaplan	Town of Brookline, Building Commission	Y
David Leschier	Advisory Committee	Y
Ali Tali	Transportation Board	N
Nancy O'Connor	Parks and Recreation Commission	Y
Dan Deutsch	Community Representative	Y
Victor Kusmin	Community Representative	Y
Linda Monach	Community Representative / Special Education Parent Advisory Council	Y
Arjun Mande	Community Representative	Y
Lakia Rutherford	Parent Representative / METCO	Y
Sara Stoutland	Community Representative	N
Mel Kleckner	Town Administrator	Y
Dr. Nicole Gittens	Deputy Superintendent of Schools for Teaching and Learning	N
Ben Lummis	Superintendent of Schools	Y
Matt Gillis	Director of Operations	Y
MaryEllen Normen	Deputy Superintendent for Administration and Finance	N
Dr. Suzie Talukdar	Driscoll School Principal	Y
Helen Charlupski	School Committee	Y
Tony Guigli	Project Manager, Town of Brookline	Y
Dan Bennett	Building Commissioner	Y
Charlie Simmons	Director of Public Buildings	Y
Jim Rogers	LeftField	Y
Lynn Stapleton	LeftField	Y
Jen Carlson	LeftField	Y
Jonathan Levi	Jonathan Levi Architects	Y
Philip Gray	Jonathan Levi Architects	Y
Carol Harris	Jonathan Levi Architects	Y
Eduardo Vivanco	Jonathan Levi Architects	Y
Walt Kincaid	Gilbane Building Company	Y
Lynda Callahan	Gilbane Building Company	Y
Joe McCoy	Gilbane Building Company	Y
Sam Ditzion	Community Member	Y
Werner Lohe	Conservation Commission, Climate Action Committee	N
Kathleen Scanlon	Community Member	N
Christi Electris	Community Member	N

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 AM.

Leftfield presented the Project Budget, noting that two estimates have been completed based on the 50% Design Development document set issued by Jonathan Levi Architects (JLA) on April 17, 2020. The estimates have been reconciled and the Project Team is currently working to identify items to identify that could be value engineered out of the project. Items identified will not impact the educational program of the building and will not adversely affect maintenance or longevity of the building.

Co-Chair Susan Wolf Ditkoff noted the importance of this project coming in under budget given the current financial climate and uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 impacts. Helen Charlupski agreed adding that being under budget could help fund other Town projects.

Leftfield provided an update on schedule development. Gilbane Building Company (GBCo) is working to develop a schedule that targets a March 1, 2021 start for foundations. The team will be meeting with JLA to make sure the schedule is achievable from a design standpoint.

The Planning Board process will begin tonight with the Driscoll School Project kickoff meeting scheduled to start at 7:30pm. At this first meeting, a Design Advisory Team will be appointed that will meet to review the project and make a recommendation to the Planning Board.

JLA reviewed the presentation from the Design Subcommittee meeting held May 4, 2020. They also explained that they are currently working to redesign what is generally referred to as the “atrium space” to eliminate the connection between floors that would require the addition of an expensive smoke evacuator. JLA has found efficiencies in eliminating these connections and reducing the openness of the main stair. Concerns were noted with regard to the glass “roof” at the main stair, some noted that the glass would get dirty and would be hard to maintain, others expressed concern over students throwing things on top of the glass structure. JLA explained that they have reconfigured the basement layout to maximize efficiencies in that location as well.

JLA met with Driscoll principal Dr. Talukdar as well as principals from the Ridley and Heath schools to discuss potential future uses for the Project Spaces that have been identified in the educational program. JLA has used the information to develop several spaces that can be used as breakout meeting and learning spaces. There is an outdoor project area included outside the maker space for projects as well. The project area on the second floor is larger and also acts as an expanded hallway. It was noted that this space could be great for events like the science fair where student work is on display. JLA is working with the Project Team, teachers, and staff to refine these collaborative, flexible zones of the building.

JLA reviewed building materials being considered for the new school. These materials have been reviewed with the School and Town for maintainability. The exterior of the building is expected to be brick with wood-look phenolic panels as trim. The openings that resemble storefront will be a curtainwall assembly that is less expensive and easier to construct. There are areas in the building that are currently designed to be premium VCT, but this material has been identified as a potential value management item.

JLA reviewed artifacts that they are looking into reusing in the new school or in the landscape of the new park and playground. These items include the sign at the front of the school, a cast stone balustrade in the same location, castings of children’s self-portraits that were created for the Millennium, and the blue stone / slate treads at the main stair. A member of the committee asked if the mural that was done for the 100 year celebration could be included in items being considered for reuse.

Co-chair Susan Wolf Ditzkoff noted the need for additional items to be identified and catalogued – trees, the Chinese gate, the 100-year mural, plaques and other memorials on site. Another member of the committee noted the stonework around the door at the older portion of the existing building and that it might be considered for reuse in the landscape.

A member of the committee asked if the security design is in line with the Brookline Police Department. JLA noted that they will be meeting with the Police Department to review the building's security design room by room.

A member of the committee asked about the HVAC design and how it would circulate air and whether it would be safe in post-COVID-19 times. JLA explained that the HVAC system uses air displacement which results in many air exchanges per hour. JLA will provide a fact sheet about the system to be posted to the project website.

A member of the committee asked what was being done in the project to address health and safety concerns that have been born out of the COVID-19 pandemic. JLA noted that while they do not have a consultant on board to address these concerns, they will look into the cleanability and antibacterial properties of materials chosen for items like hardware, bathroom fixtures, and other widely used objects. It was noted that the project could consider what has been done in hospitals previously.

A member of the committee noted that a community member had previously brought up the potential to close a portion of Westbourne Terrace to allow for additional temporary play space. The committee member noted that this idea may be necessary in order to allow for social distancing during recess. Another member of the committee proposed that instead of Westbourne, the team consider closing Bartlett to limit the number of residents affected. Dr. Talukdar added that there is currently a lot of discussion around how to schedule recess to allow for physical distancing. JLA noted that they would be working with GBCo to design the temporary play space to meet the school's needs during construction.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 AM.