

ARTICLE 5

BOARD OF SELECTMEN’S SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

Article 5 asks the Town to authorize funding to advance the design of an additional (9th) elementary school for Brookline. In August, the Board anticipated that they would be prepared to either move forward on the Baldwin/Soule site, or consider moving funding forward on an alternate site in time for Town Meeting. At a joint meeting in executive session held on September 19, 2017, the Board of Selectmen and School Committee voted independently and unanimously to expand the sites under consideration for a new 9th elementary school to include the acquisition of a 7-acre parcel of privately owned land located on Heath Street (the Pine Manor site). Shortly after this announcement, the Board held a public hearing to solicit feedback on this site. The feedback received has allowed the Board to determine that more study is needed before proceeding with a final site. During this time, Article 1 of the First Special Town Meeting (STM1) was filed by citizen petition. Article 1 provides for an expanded scope and allows for the flexibility needed to reconsider previous sites that were dismissed before certain encumbrances on the current sites were known.

The Board favors the compromise language drafted under Article 1 of STM1 and therefore on October 31, 2017 unanimously voted NO ACTION under Article 5.

More information on this topic can also be found in the Supplement for Article 1 of STM1.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE’S SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

Article 5 was placed on the Warrant by the Selectmen so that Town Meeting could consider authorizing funding for the feasibility or design studies for a 9th elementary school. It offers only three options to address the challenges of increasing school capacity: building on the Baldwin School and Soule Recreation sites in accordance with the requirements of the National Park Service’s Land and Water Conservation Fund program and Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution; building on the unrestricted portion of the Baldwin School site, and building on Pine Manor College land. (More information on each of these options can be found in the Advisory Committee’s Report on Article 1 of the First Special Town Meeting to be held within the Fall Special Town Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on November 14, 2017 (“STM 1”).

RECOMMENDATION:

Advisory Committee members found the scope of Article 5 to be too restrictive for the purposes of undertaking a successful search for a feasible way to provide needed

classroom and other educational spaces. Therefore, by a vote of 21–0–4, the Committee recommends NO ACTION on Article 5.

Article 1 of the First Special Town Meeting

Because Article 1 of the First Special Town Meeting essentially replaces Article 5, the Advisory Committee’s vote on Article 1 is presented here. The Advisory Committee’s full report on this matter can be found in its report on Article 1 of the First Special Town Meeting.

The Advisory Committee initially recommended Favorable Action on the following motion under Article 1 of the First Special Town Meeting (STM 1):

VOTED: That the Town re-appropriate the following amounts out of funds previously appropriated under Section 13, Special Appropriation No. 67 of Article 9 of the 2017 Annual Town Meeting, to be expended under the direction of the Building Commission, with any necessary contracts greater than \$100,000 to be approved by the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee, as follows: (1) \$300,000 for the purpose of further site evaluation services, including legal services, at the Baldwin/Pine Manor sites and site evaluation services, including legal services, at alternate sites, which shall include but not be limited to the Pierce School and adjacent properties, and the Baker School; (2) an additional \$400,000, for further feasibility study on a single-site solution; and (3) a further additional \$300,000 (or a total of \$700,000 for feasibility studies), for further feasibility study on a multi-site solution should a multi-site solution be chosen. The evaluation and determination of a single- site or a multi-site solution prior to the expenditure of funds for feasibility studies referred to in (2) and (3) above shall include the options of constructing a new school and of demolishing, renovating, and expanding existing schools, with the determination of a single-site or multi-site solution made by the Board of Selectmen and School Committee with the advice of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee, after evaluation information has been received by the Board of Selectmen, School Committee and Ad Hoc Subcommittee and publicly presented for discussion to the extent advised by Town Counsel.

After further review of the language of the motion, it was determined that minor revisions should be made in order to ensure that the appropriated funds could be spent in accordance with the intent of the motion. The motion below includes the necessary revisions to the previous motion. Deletions are shown in ~~striketrough~~; addition in **bold**.

By a vote of 23–1–0, the Advisory Committee recommends FAVORABLE ACTION on the following motion under Article 1 of the First Special Town Meeting:

VOTED: That the Town re-appropriate ~~the following amounts out of~~ **up to \$1 million in** funds previously appropriated under Section 13, Special Appropriation No. 67 of Article 9 of the 2017 Annual Town Meeting, to be expended under the direction of the Building

Commission, with any necessary contracts greater than \$100,000 to be approved by the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee, as follows: (1) \$300,000 for the purpose of further site evaluation services, including legal services, at the Baldwin/Pine Manor sites and site evaluation services, including legal services, at alternate sites, which shall include but not be limited to the Pierce School and adjacent properties, and the Baker School; (2) an additional \$400,000, for further feasibility study ~~on a single site solution~~; and (3) a further additional \$300,000 (or a total of \$700,000 for feasibility studies), for further feasibility study on a multi-site solution should a multi-site solution be chosen. The evaluation and determination of a single- site or a multi-site solution prior to the expenditure of funds for feasibility studies referred to in (2) and (3) above shall include the options of constructing a new school and of demolishing, renovating, and expanding existing schools, with the determination of a single-site or multi-site solution made by the Board of Selectmen and School Committee with the advice of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee, after evaluation information has been received by the Board of Selectmen, School Committee and Ad Hoc Subcommittee and publicly presented for discussion to the extent advised by Town Counsel.