

Thursday, September 29, 2018 - Meeting of the Baldwin Building Committee

Good morning. I am Bernard Greene a member of the Select Board and co-chair with Julie Schreiner-Oldham of the Baldwin Building Committee.

After more than a decade of struggling to absorb – by various means – the historic enrollment growth in Brookline’s public schools – up more than 40% during this time, we have a way forward with a proposed project to expand the existing Baldwin School and create a ninth elementary school on its site. This expanded Baldwin School, together with other proposed projects at Driscoll and Pierce, will provide significant relief to our overcrowded schools in South Brookline and North Brookline. The Baldwin Building Committee is one piece of a process that includes individual residents and Town organizations who, we hope, will participate as positive contributors to the work of the Committee with their comments, observations, and concerns. The community members of this Committee have a particular additional role. We are asking you to discuss the work of this Committee and the importance of this project with your friends and neighbors and engage people across Town in constructive discussions and bring the feedback you receive to the Committee to inform its work. If we work together – in good-faith – on this critically needed project, we will have a school that the community can be proud of and that serves the needs of all of Brookline with minimal disturbance to the neighborhood in which it is located.

With the establishment of the Baldwin Building Committee, we are beginning – but not from scratch – the **Design Feasibility** phase of the project. The goal of Design Feasibility is to identify a preliminary design for the expansion of the existing Baldwin School that can be feasibly built on the Baldwin site. Once we are able to conclude that the project is feasible, this Committee will recommend a preferred design option to the School Committee, Building Commission, and Select Board and we will then commit to the next phase, which will be detailed **Schematic Design**. As part of the feasibility analysis, our architect, Jonathan Levi and his team will develop preliminary design options. This will include basic drawings of the exterior, interior, and the grounds, making possible meaningful project cost estimates. The Design Feasibility phase also includes new or updated reports on traffic and parking impacts, geo-technical engineering, environmental assessment, tree assessment, and a site survey.

As the agenda indicated, we are not taking public comment at this meeting. Rather, we have developed multiple opportunities for the public to give comments, express concerns, or identify problems or issues with our proceedings. You can ask a question or make a statement at future Neighborhood Community Forums, the first of which will be on October 17. You can also give us your comments by completing a comment form that is online at:

<https://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/Page/2391>

Your comments can also be expressed through the political process by communicating with your Town Meeting member, as Town Meeting will have a say in this process.

The Baldwin Building Committee is comprised of four community members who were selected from residents who submitted applications, five community members who were identified by relevant Town Boards or Commissions, and Town administrators and staff members and liaisons:

Position	Name
Co-Chair – Select Board	Bernard Greene
Co-Chair - School Committee	Julie Schreiner Oldham
Building Commission	Nathan Peck
School Committee	Suzanne Federspiel
Advisory Committee	Mike Sandman
Park and Recreation Commission	Clara Batchelor
Planning Board/ Community Representative	Blair Hines
Community Representative	Michelle Morrissey
SEPAC/Community Representative	Rebecca Manor
Community Representative	Mary Weitzel
Community Representative	Deborah Abner
Town Administrator or designee	Mel Kleckner
Superintendent of Schools or designee	Andrew Bott
Interim Deputy Superintendent for Student Services	Casey Ngo-Miller
Senior Director, Teaching and Learning (former Baker School Principal)	Mary Brown
Project Manager, School Department	Ben Lummis *
Project Manager, Building Department	Ray Masak *
Building Commissioner	Daniel Bennett *
Deputy Superintendent of Schools for Administration and Finance	Mary Ellen Dunn*

* Non-voting member