

ARTICLE 4

MOTION OFFERED BY C. SCOTT ANANIAN TMM10

VOTED: That the town appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds up to \$115,300,000 to be expended under the direction of the Building Commission, with any necessary contracts over \$100,000 to be approved by the Select Board and the School Committee, to reconstruct the Driscoll School as a fossil-fuel-free four section school, with the understanding that the final stages of project design, which follow voter and Town Meeting approval, will include efforts to further optimize the project’s design in terms of both program delivery and cost efficiency, provided that such appropriation shall be contingent on the approval by Town voters of a debt exclusion vote to fund the debt service on said borrowing.

Motion Marked against the AC motion:

That the town appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds up to ~~\$108,800,000~~ **\$115,300,000** to be expended under the direction of the Building Commission, with any necessary contracts over \$100,000 to be approved by the Select Board and the School Committee, to reconstruct the Driscoll School as a **fossil-fuel-free** four section school, with the understanding that the final stages of project design, which follow voter and Town Meeting approval, will include efforts to further optimize the project’s design in terms of both program delivery and cost efficiency, ~~including the evaluation of the feasibility of providing office space for district-wide staff of the Brookline Public Schools,~~ provided that such appropriation shall be contingent on the approval by Town voters of a debt exclusion vote to fund the debt service on said borrowing.

Explanation:

A motion to preserve a fossil-fuel free Driscoll

Given construction cost inflation in the Boston area, which is as high as 15.7% for FY2020 given MSBA school construction cost data, the architect for the Driscoll project recommends a 10% increase over the original FY2019 bid price. The architect’s projected total costs are:

	FY2019 Total Project Cost	FY2020 Total Project Cost
Building and Site	\$96.6M	\$106.3M
Play Area:	\$2.5M	\$2.7M
Structured Parking:	\$3.4M	\$3.8M
Fossil Free Allowance:	\$6.3M	\$6.9M
Total:	\$108.8M	\$119.7M

The Advisory Committee and Select Board have emphasized the need to contain costs, and both have advanced a motion allocating only the original \$108.8M for the Driscoll school. Given the financial realities of building cost inflation, it appears that a straightforward way to bring the project back to the original budget is to sacrifice structured parking and the fossil fuel free building: $\$119.7\text{M} - \$6.9\text{M} - \$3.8\text{M} = \109M .

In order to safeguard the fossil-fuel free construction, which Town Meeting voted on as part of the schematic design but has not yet affirmed for the final building, **this motion adds the original FY2019 \$6.3M fossil fuel free allowance back to the \$109M to arrive at a final budget of \$115.3M.** The FY2019 FFF allowance was used as a member of the Advisory Committee opined that fossil fuel free systems have in fact been trending downward in price, and would likely be an exception to the overall construction cost inflation.

This motion also strikes the administrative space from the appropriation, in keeping with the constrained budget and the questionable cost-effectiveness of adding office space to a building constructed to school standards.