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## MEETING NOTES

Building communities  
since 1870

To	
Tom Morrill, Jude Cyr, Building Committee Members, JPL, MDL, JBJ, FLC, DPD, SCH, RDM, ROM, PRM, PRA, DER, FILE	
From	
Jeff Larimer	
Date	
May 29, 2009	
Project	
Edward Little High School Study - Additions/Renovations Auburn, ME Project No. 08512	
Subject	
BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING #6 – MAY 21, 2009	
Present	
Tom Morrill	Superintendent, Auburn School Department
Jude Cyr	Business Manager, Auburn School Department
David Das	School Committee Chair
Jim Miller	Principal, Edward Little High School
Billy Hunter	Auburn School Department
Larry Pelletier	School Committee
Bonnie Hayes	School Committee
Valerie Ackley	ELHS Staff Member
Pat Gautier	ELHS Librarian
Dick Gleason	Community Member
Larry LaBrie	Community Member
Jeff Larimer	Harriman
Not Present	
Laurie Smith	Assistant City Manager
Chris Camire	ELHS Student
Annie Helmkamp	ELHS Student
Tara Paradie	Community Member/Parent
Ray Berube	Auburn City Council
Chip Morrison	Community Member
Debora Philbrook	Community Member/Parent
Louise Nunn	Community Member/Parent
Ron Lebel	Community Member
William Luce	Adult Ed Director

1. Tom and David provided feedback on the open house that was held on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. The turnout exceeded expectations with about 150 people attending that represented a good cross section of the community. Feedback from those attending recognized the deficiencies that have been previously cited, such as the cafeteria and the poor ventilation.
2. The students who gave the tour summarized the comments they heard immediately following the tours. Encompass is to summarize the comments made on the cards

- turned in by those attending the tours. It was suggested that all the comments be posted to the website for all to see.
3. State Senator Deb Simpson attended the open house and mentioned that Sue Gendron, Commissioner of Education, may try to reopen the school construction application process in early 2010. If that is correct and Auburn were to submit an application for Edward Little, the process could take one to two years before it is known how the high school would rate and if any funding would be available through the state.
  4. With the completion of the New Construction vs Renovation report, the next step for the building committee is to decide which option to proceed with. Their recommendation would then be presented to the school committee for approval. The school committee could accept, reject or modify the building committee's recommendation.
  5. The options before the committee are as follows:
    - a. Option 1: Renovate and add on to the existing building.
    - b. Option 2: Construct a new building on a new site.
    - c. Option 3: Construct a new building on the existing site, if feasible, and demolish all or part of the existing building. This was the option suggested at the school committee meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup>.
  6. The committee was polled to get a sense of which way each member is leaning. Of those present, one favored Option 1, three favored Option 2 and seven favored Option 3. No final decision was made at this time pending further discussion.
  7. Of those favoring Option 3, they would like to see what the site would like with a new building and site elements shown.
  8. In addition, it was suggested that it may not be feasible to save any of the existing building, including the gym, due to the lack of energy efficiency of the existing structure. Recent infrared images taken of the existing building showed extensive heat loss in all parts of the building, including the gym and the 1998 addition.
  9. It was also suggested that because of its configuration and topography, the existing site is not adequate and that another site should be considered rather than try to reuse it.
  10. If the existing building ended up being completely razed, then some committee members may favor building a new building on a new site rather than trying to fit everything onto the existing site. Even constructing a new building on the southern end of the existing site may still not provide enough space for all of the desired athletic fields plus improved parking and site circulation. It was also noted that the southern portion of the existing site has been filled over the years and the extent or make-up of the fill material is unknown.
  11. The committee will need to decide if it is reasonable to do all of the extensive renovations to the existing building and site or build new on the existing site and still end up short of what is ultimately needed or desired.
  12. For the next meeting, Harriman will prepare some sketches to show what may or may not fit on the existing site for a new building, circulation, parking and athletic fields. If it appears that this option may be feasible, then it is recommended that soil borings be conducted along the southern portion of the site to evaluate the extent of the fill material to determine the potential impact on building in that area.
  13. Discussed other sites that may be suitable if a decision were to be made to build a new school elsewhere. There is a large parcel adjacent to and behind the middle school that could be developed into a campus setting possibly allowing for shared

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- use of parking and athletic fields although concerns were expressed about mixing middle and high school students on one site.
14. If the option of building a new school on a new site were pursued, an extensive site evaluation would need to be conducted to help identify other sites in the city that may be suitable for a high school site. Each site would then need to be rated based on multiple criteria to determine their feasibility. (Note: using DOE guidelines, the minimum size site for a 1,200 student high school would be 27 usable acres. The actual size and configuration of the site may vary widely in order to obtain a site that is usable.)
  15. DOE's website contains information on other recently completed new and renovated state funded high school projects. Harriman will forward this information to all committee members for reference.
  16. The next meeting of the building committee is scheduled for Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the council chambers at Auburn Hall.

*If written notice is not received within two weeks of receipt, the above meeting notes represent an accurate summary of the meeting and its conclusions.*

jplar