

Virtual Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee Report  
Monday, June 27, 2022  
Broadcast from the Media Arts Studio  
454 Broadway, Cambridge, MA

Called for the purpose of reviewing the status of the RFP for the Long-Range Building study and reviewing recent updates to the health & safety protocols.

Sub-Committee Members Present: Member Rojas, Chair; Member Fantini

Others present: Dr. Turk, Deputy Superintendent; Vedad Konjic, Facilities Director

Chair Rojas started the meeting at 5:00 p.m. Chair Rojas outlined the meeting and shared the goals of the meeting:

- Hear about current updates to the health & safety protocols being considered.
- Review the status of the RFP for the Long-Range Building Study
- Provide the opportunity for community members to ask questions and ideas on these topics to the administration, the health & safety working group and others.

Chair Rojas turned the meeting over to Dr. Turk for a [presentation](#). Dr. Turk then presented recent updates to the COVID protocols.

Chair Rojas turned the meeting over to other Sub-Committee members for comments and questions. Member Fantini asked Dr. Dobberteen for clarification on how the school department will be handling vaccines for younger children now that the vaccine for younger children has been approved especially around extra-curricular activities.

- Dr. Dobberteen clarified that for six months to four years-as the vaccines were recently approved, the youngest children don't participate in extracurricular activities, they are now just encouraging vaccination.
- Member Rojas asked for further clarification on the question from Member Fantini
- Youngest JK to 5 students will more often participate in after-school programs, they will go to a program unlike high school students who are participating in different types of activities
- Member Rojas asked the administration to highlight the recent changes, what's been relaxed, and the reasoning behind that
- Dr. Turk confirmed that they are trying to ease themselves back into an environment that is pre-pandemic
- Ms. Vaneluzenza provided a parent perspective.

Chair Rojas opened the meeting to community members for their questions and comments.

- Elinor Actipis asked for clarification on the timeline of when the vaccine mandate is going to end and voiced her concern about equity issues around the mandate.
- Harvey Goldstein advocated for ending the vaccine mandate and asked why it is mandated for extra-curricular activities. Dr. Dobberteen discussed how extra-curricular are higher risks activities.
- Ms. Rich asked for an update on field trip overnight policies.

Chair Rojas turned the meeting over to Vedad Konjic for an update on the expansion study.

- Konjic provided an update that they received five proposals and the DLR was chosen (the firm that did that MLK building). This study will involve ten schools-the project includes the following three scopes: facilities assessment, capacity analysis/expansion potential, and they will come up with candidates for renovations/expansions. They plan to start in July, and it will go until April of next year.

Chair Rojas turned the meeting over to other Sub-Committee members for their questions and comments.

- Member Fantini voiced his support for the choice and his work with them on the MLK building during his time as the chair of the Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee.
- He asked Mr. Konjic when the last review was. Mr. Konjic confirmed that it was in 2006.

Chair Rojas turned the meeting over to the public for their questions and comments.

- Valenzuela discussed whether this study will include community needs. Mr. Konjic discussed how they need to determine which buildings are and then will bring in all stakeholders who use the space in the process.

Member Rojas also voiced his support of the choice of DLR for this project.

The discussion turned into how this project ties into capital improvement funding and MSBA funding.

Konjic discussed how they will touch base on the status with the Sub-Committee after summer vacation,

Chair Rojas adjourned the meeting at 6:18 pm.