

# Cape Schools Open Minds and Open Doors

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## BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING & SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

VIA ZOOM

November 24, 2020

6:30 pm

MINUTES

Heather Altenburg welcomed everyone, and explained that this was a Regular School Board Workshop, but they were using it as a Building Committee Meeting. The Board's charge in Workshop is to work on the Strategic Goals, and one of the goals relates to the buildings. Superintendent Wolfrom read the Building Committee Charge.

Ms. Altenburg addressed the concerns regarding communication within the committee and the need for public transparency. She reminded the members that any communication needed to be done in the meetings, that if information is shared (i.e. website links, PDFs relating to the Committee Charge), a section on the website has been created for this purpose. She explained where to find the information on the website, it is not mandatory reading, it is shared for access to those who wish to share information.

Ms. Scifres emphasized that this is how the School Board works; no conversations over emails, all discussions happen during meetings that can be accessed by the public.

Matthew Sturgis, Town Manager started his presentation around the 5:42-minute mark of the video. His discussion revolved around financial proformas, interest rates and tax impacts, debt capacity, and bond ratings. He shared documents that are now listed on the website as supporting documents, The Cost of Borrowing and Tax Impact, and Debt Capacity Estimate. Mary Ann Lynch asked for clarification on the additional funds that would increase the taxes that would be added to the normal running of the school and town. She also asked about the total debt the town is retiring, Mr. Sturgis provided those numbers around the 19-minute mark. Andrew Patten asked for clarification on the debt the town carries to date, and what it would look like in five years. Nicole Boucher asked for some explanation regarding the percentage of debt ratio, and how we

compare to other towns. Her concern is are we borrowing so little that it's a detriment to the community. Mr. Sturgis answered that the town has been very strategic in borrowing, which has landed the town with an excellent bond rating, which will be helpful should we decide to borrow for future projects. He also noted that Yarmouth recently had borrowed and gave specifics around the 28-minute mark. He concludes his presentation around the 30-minute mark.

A report on new construction vs renovation was the next topic, presented by representatives from Colby Company. The discussion started on the environmental impact of demolishing the building, what could be done with resources, what can be sold and recycled. Their presentation starts around 31 minutes until around 43 minutes.

A review of the options by Heather Altenburg and James Hebert followed as a reminder in order to start the discussion needed to vote. Conversations revolved around costs of product, impact of what the design on paper would give to solidify the estimates in a more direct manner. The representatives then left the discussion to allow the committee privacy. Many committee members voiced their opinions on each of the options and how they felt each would be most effective and beneficial. Getting a feel for community support on what they would be comfortable with and get behind was mentioned. During this point, the charge was reviewed in order to bring the discussion back to topic. Many members voiced their opinion that renovations on the buildings have been done and they feel it is not cost-efficient any longer. Two committee members felt that renovation would be more prudent, and take the burden off taxpayers.

A roll call vote to take the option of the renovation off the table was in order. Heather Altenburg led the charge, it was not unanimous, but an overwhelming majority of yay.

Additional information to gather for the upcoming meeting:

- More clarification on Option #1 and how it will work.
- Explore the phased option vs a faster time frame.
- Explore the tax impact of the options.
- Information about the addition of Pre-K and how that would change the financial aspect.

Meeting adjourned: 8:35 pm