

**South Hadley Elementary School Building Project Committee
Meeting Minutes (APPROVED)**

February 11, 2026, 5:30pm Mosier Elementary School, Library, Mosier St, South Hadley, MA			
<u>ATTENDANCE</u>			
Voting Members	Present	Non-Voting Members	Present
Diane Mulvaney (Chair)	Y	Brook Beaulieu, Teacher, SHPS	
Jeff Cyr (Vice Chair)	Y	Elizabeth Cooke, Director of Student Services, SHPS	
Leonard Finkowski	Y	Cindy Flynn, Mosier School Principal, SHPS	
Eric Friesner	Y	Scott Moore, Director of Building Operations	Y
Rudolph Hall	Y	Chuck Romboletti, Assistant Town Administrator/HR	Y
Brian Kennedy		Jennifer Voyik, Superintendent, SHPS	Y
Kevin McAllister	Y	Lisa Wong, Town Administrator	Y
Ryan Moore	Y	Liz Wood, High School Principal, SHPS	Y
Teresa Winters-Tobin	Y	<i>Others in Attendance:</i>	
Tracie Kennedy	Y	Skanska (OPM): Nicholas Lobik	
		Mt. Vernon Architects: Chris LeBlanc	

Meeting Called to Order: Chair Diane Mulvaney called the meeting to order at 5:33PM.

1. Open Comment

None.

2. Housekeeping - Minute Taker

a. Diane stated that Lisa Wong would begin minutes taking, and Chuck Romboletti would continue once arrived.

3. Minutes Approval

a. **January 14, 2026 and January 28, 2026** - A motion was made by Kevin McAllister to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Jeff Cyr, and passed unanimously.

4. Project Update

a. **Decision: Preferred Design Solution**

Community Meeting recap: Nick Lobik (Skanska) reviewed the PowerPoint presentation from the recent community meeting and summarized survey results administered live at the community meeting:

Enrollment configuration preference:

- Grades 1–5: 7 votes

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- Grades 2–4: 2 votes

Site Alternate preference:

- Alternate 5: 9 votes
- Alternate 4: 1 vote

Nick reported limited open-ended comments, with positive feedback regarding the Superintendent’s presentation.

Discussion included public perception and communications strategy. The Committee discussed:

- Social media commentary and the importance of documenting the project’s outreach history, including work prior to involvement with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA).
- Ensuring the project website links are functional (Nick to review).
- Developing consistent messaging, including a one-page handout with QR code directing residents to the project website.
- Adding a clear full project timeline and updating Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).
- Continued community engagement opportunities, including summer events.

Narrowing of final Preferred Option Discussion: Nick and MVG reviewed cost comparisons and delivery methods (design-bid-build vs. CM at-risk), noting an approximate \$15 million difference between Options 4 and 5, after the estimated 50% MSBA reimbursement.

Doug (MVG) noted that six studies dating back to 1993 consistently identified a Grades 1–5 configuration.

Ryan Moore, prior to departing, mentioned that he preferred Option 5 with the Grade 1-5 reconfiguration, stating that the option has the opportunity to affect more grades.

Student Listening Sessions: Liz reported on listening sessions conducted by High School students with Mosier students. Students in Grades 2–8 expressed support for a Grades 1–5 configuration, noting that Grade 5 benefits from having a defined place within the school community. Students also expressed interest in dedicated history and science classrooms and a larger library. Liz departed following her report but noted preference for Grade 1-5 option.

Financial Discussion: Lisa discussed upcoming debt schedule reductions and the potential to evaluate bonding capacity within tax limits, including maintaining debt service at approximately 5% of operations. She will coordinate with the Town Accountant and bond counsel to analyze affordability and report back. Doug noted there may be structuring options to align the project with financial capacity.

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Programmatic Considerations: Discussion included expansion opportunities under Option 5, including early childhood and vocational programming, potential grant funding (including EEC capital grants), school choice considerations, and long-term strategic planning. Administration affirmed understanding of the financial implications associated with the decision.

Motion: Kevin McAllister moved to select Option 5 (New Build/Existing Site/Grade 1-5 reconfiguration) as the preferred design solution. Seconded by Len Finkowski.

Motion Discussion: Jeff stated for the record that he has strong confidence in the School Administration's leadership and believes they understand the Town's financial constraints and the long-term implications of this decision, and that their continued support of the project reflects a strategic, fiscally responsible approach that serves the Town's long-term interests.

Roll Call Vote:

Len – Yes
Rudy – Yes
Jeff – Yes
Kevin – Yes
Teresa – Yes
Tracy – Yes
Eric – Yes
Diane – Yes

Motion Vote: Unanimous in favor. Option 5 selected as the preferred design solution.

b. Next Steps

- OPM and MVG to proceed with updated estimates.
- Continued coordination regarding financing analysis.
- Preparation of updated outreach materials (timeline, FAQ, one-page summary).
- Increased community engagement during summer events.
- Nick noted he will be taking a leave of absence in the near future.

5. Committees/Boards/Departments Requesting Updates

a. Invoice Subcommittee Review of Budget

Nick reported that the Finance/Invoice Subcommittee will meet next week to review invoices. The overall project budget remains unchanged; no change orders were reported.

b. Communication Subcommittee

Discussion included strengthening communications through consistent messaging, website updates, FAQs, and a project timeline highlighting prior milestones.

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6. Next Meeting Dates

- a. February 26, 2026 (Thursday – in person)
- b. March 18, 2026
- c. April 16, 2026 (Thursday)
- d. April 29, 2026

All meetings scheduled for 5:30 PM.

7. Correspondence

- a. **Correspondence not associated with MSBA - none**

8. Other Business (*Those items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair, 48 hours in advance*)

None

9. Adjournment

- a. At 7:06pm motion to adjourn was made by **Kevin McAllister**, and seconded by **Len Finkowski**. The motion passed unanimously.