

Shrewsbury Public Schools  
Preschool - Grade 4 Capital Planning Study Committee  
Monday, February 12, 2024

Meeting Minutes

Members Present

Sandy Fryc (School Committee Chair)  
Erin Boucher (School Committee Vice Chair)  
Theresa Flynn (Select Board Vice Chair)  
John Samia (Select Board Clerk)  
Bridget Nichols (Director, Parker Road Preschool)  
James Dealy (Parent, Parker Road Preschool)  
Jennifer Foran (Staff Member, Parker Road Preschool)  
Kristen Gasper (Principal, Beal School)  
Margaret Aulenback (Staff Member, Beal School)  
Tiffany Ostrander (Principal, Coolidge School)  
Justine Maloy (Parent, Coolidge School)  
Kelly Finnaran (Staff Member, Coolidge School)  
Lisa McCubrey (Principal, Floral Street School)  
Aaron Detrick (Staff Member, Paton School)  
Colleen Luzzo (Parent, Paton School)  
Bryan Mabie (Principal, Spring Street School)  
Peter Welland (Parent, Spring Street School)  
Keith Baldinger (Assistant Town Manager for Operations)  
Rajesh Velagapudi (Parent, Beal School)  
Krysty Ralys (Staff Member, Floral Street School)  
Alison Kimball (Staff Member, Spring Street School)  
Scott Mulcahy (Principal, Paton School)  
Chris Girardi (Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations)  
Joe Sawyer (Superintendent)

Members Absent

William Tuttle (Division Manager, Public Buildings)  
Varanasi Pokala (Parent, Floral Street School)

Non-Members Attending

Bill Lupini (Collins Center for Public Management)

Interested Committee members were provided with a tour of the Floral Street School at 6:00 p.m. prior to the meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Girardi opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. with an outline of the activity for the evening, as well as the plan for the upcoming work of this Committee. Specifically, the

group will meet again on Monday, March 4th to consider the draft recommendations derived from our conversations on January 8th and February 12th. The final report, to be prepared following that meeting, will go to the School Committee and Board of Selectmen later in March.

Dr. Lupini then facilitated the rest of this meeting. Committee members were divided into five (5) groups and given the following questions:

- *Is there consensus regarding which elementary school should be the first priority for replacement or renovation? Why? Next after that?*
- *Is there consensus regarding whether Shrewsbury should consider expanding preschool seats and how that is best accomplished?*
  - *Stand-alone new construction*
  - *Renovated/Expanded Stand-alone building*
  - *Combined New Elementary with Full New Preschool Space*
  - *Spreading Preschool Across Elementary Schools*

At the conclusion of each of the small group discussions, the groups then shared out the results of their deliberation. Responses were as follows:

*Is there consensus regarding which elementary school should be the first priority for replacement or renovation? Why? Next after that?*

#### Red Group

- Coolidge replacement
  - Not up to current building code
  - Cost of renovation v. replacement
  - All systems have need, out of code
  - Land to build
  - Potential to add PK program
  - Economy of scale for services
- Next after that - look to consolidate Paton and Spring

#### Purple Group

- We don't have consensus on which school should come first
- Some of us believe that Coolidge should be first based on age and condition
- Others feel Paton should be renovated
- Others feel that preschool question needs to be answered first

#### Blue Group

- Consolidate 3 (SSP, CCS, WJP) into 1 school
- Preschool in an existing building (Paton - centrally located) - one large school OR
- Redistrict all schools - have each school host # preschool classrooms

### Black Group

- Consensus?
- Coolidge - but, what about moving all to Beal OR
- A new 600 student school

### Green Group

- Which school? Depends on whether we go to one or more large school or stay with neighborhood schools.
- Coolidge - the number of renovations needed; replace (if using neighborhood school model)
- Spring and then Paton
- If one more large school, then centrally locate near Paton/Spring

*Is there consensus regarding whether Shrewsbury should consider expanding preschool seats and how that is best accomplished?*

- *Stand-alone new construction*
- *Renovated/Expanded Stand-alone building*
- *Combined New Elementary with Full New Preschool Space*
- *Spreading Preschool Across Elementary Schools*

### Red Group

- Based on an assumption that PK will be mandatory, yes - we feel more seats should be offered
- Consensus - needs to be attached to an elementary school rebuild for funding purposes
- Option A - one large building (Coolidge, Spring, Paton and Preschool
  - Some students move to Beal to have the school at full capacity
- Option B - Retrofit (town funded) Beal/Floral to accommodate PK in every elementary school (Note - a new large building would also have PK)

### Purple Group

- More seats to accommodate a full day option
- All preschool seats in one location
- Like idea of preschool being in elementary school community
- Would not want to do stand alone preschool - MSBA will not reimburse
- Keeping eye toward universal pre-k with whatever option is pursued and transportation implications

### Blue Group

- Option 1A - Consolidate Expanded PK
  - Beal + PK
  - Floral + PK
  - New School + PK (needs redistricting)
  - Growth could go to WJP

- Option 1B - Consolidate
  - SSS
  - Beal + PK - CCS & Paton Redispersed
  - Floral + PK
  - New 2 + PK - CCS & Paton Redispersed
  - Or PK @ WJP

#### Black Group

- Three in favor of expanding, two opposed
- If yes, prefer spreading classrooms across elementary schools
  - Integrated
  - Stay in one school through grade 4
  - Not realistic to have 400+ pk in one location? (if universal, for example)
- If expand, by how much (full day, half day or both)

#### Green Group

- Question - would the town pay for the PK renovation or build? We think no.
- If no, PK would have to be attached to an elementary building
- Stand alone school - service providers, collaboration time, specific programming
- If spread out - need to ensure equitable programming, home school attendance or program specific, service providers

At the conclusion of the meeting, Dr. Sawyer indicated that the next meeting will be held on Monday, March 4, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. The location for this meeting is yet to be determined.

*Minutes approved by the Preschool - Grade 4 Capital Planning Study Committee  
Monday, March 4, 2024*