

FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The School Committee aims specifically toward:

1. Facilities that will accommodate organizational and instructional patterns that support the district's educational philosophy and instructional goals;
2. Meeting all health and safety requirements through the remodeling of older structures;
3. Providing building renovations to meet requirements on the availability of public school facilities to handicapped persons; and
4. Building design and construction that will lend themselves to low maintenance costs and the conservation of energy. These two factors will also be given special consideration in the renovation of buildings.
5. Every new school which is to be constructed and every addition to an existing school or program for modernization of an existing school shall be designed or planned so as to ensure that the educational opportunities to be offered within that school following its construction or expansion or reconstruction will be available equally to all students thereof without regard to the race, color, sex, religion or national origin of any such student.
6. The goal of each school shall be to provide equal numbers of males and females with those facilities and conveniences within a school which are separated for reasons of privacy, e.g. showers, locker rooms, changing rooms, toilets and laboratories. Any school to be constructed shall make such provision and any plan for the expansion or modernization of an existing school shall include whatever provision is necessary in order to achieve compliance with 603 CMR 26.07.

Decisions pertaining to educational specifications of new buildings and those undergoing extensive remodeling will be developed only after the viewpoints of teachers, students, and parents have been sought.

REC'D: NESDEC
CROSS REF: EBAC
LEGAL REF: 603 CMR 26:07

1st Reading: September 6, 2005

2nd Reading: October 5, 2005

Adoption: October 5, 2005

Proposed reconsideration:

FACILITIES PLANNING

Staff Planning

Arrangements will be made by the Superintendent, working through principals, for the school staff to contribute in the planning of new school buildings. Teachers will be given the opportunity to submit suggestions for possible inclusion in the educational specifications.

REC'D: NESDEC

LEGAL REFS: M.G.L. 70B; 71:37C and D; 71:68; 71:70
Massachusetts Board of Education Regulations Governing the School Building Assistance Act, Chapter 645 of the Acts of 1948 as amended, and the act establishing the School building Assistance Program, MGL 70B, added by Chapter 159, Section 40 of the Acts and Resolves of 2000, and Board of Education 603 CMR, 38:00 and 603 CMR 26:07

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Proposed reconsideration:

RETIREMENT OF FACILITIES

When a school building becomes inadequate by virtue of age, condition, size of site, lack of need, or other overriding limitations, and cannot reasonably and economically be brought up to the current educational standards, the building should be considered for a comprehensive closing study. The Superintendent will recommend to the School Committee which facilities appear to justify further analysis.

The School Committee may seek both professional advice and the advice of the community in making its recommendations as to the retirement of any school facility. This will permit the public, which originally acquired the property, to benefit from its recycling or retirement.

A closing study will include direct involvement by those neighborhoods considered in the study and will be concerned with all or some of the following factors:

1. Age and current physical condition of the facilities, its operating systems, and program facilities;
2. Adequacy of site, location, access, surrounding development, traffic patterns, and other environmental conditions;
3. Reassignment of children, including alternative plans according to School Committee policy;
4. Transportation factors, including numbers of children bussed, time, distance, and safety;
5. Alternative uses of the building;
6. Cost/Savings:
 - a. Personnel
 - b. Plant Operation
 - c. Transportation
 - d. Capital Investment
 - e. Alternative Use
7. Continuity of instructional and community programs.

REC'D: NESDEC

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Proposed reconsideration:

EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION

The School Committee shall require the Superintendent to develop a set of comprehensive educational specifications for the architect. These specifications, which shall then be discussed in conferences with the architect, and iff applicable, with the School Building Committee, then approved by the Milton School Committee and shall include:

1. Information concerning the plan of school organization and estimated enrollment in the proposed building;
2. A description of the proposed curriculum and the teaching methods and techniques to be employed;
3. A schedule of space requirements, including an indication of relative locations of various spaces;
4. A desired layout of special areas and the equipment needed for such areas; and
5. An outline of mechanical features and special finishes desired.

REC'D: NESDEC

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Adoption: October 5, 2005

Proposed reconsideration:

SITE ACQUISITION PROCEDURE

Priorities based upon student population, location, and education needs shall be established well in advance in order that proper locations for school sites might be acquired. Sites shall be acquired in advance of time for construction to allow adequate time for the completion of topography studies and other preliminary work. Eminent domain action of the acquisition of property for school site purposes shall be executed only after negotiations fail. Site shall undergo Environmental assessment per DOE regulations.

REC'D: NESDEC
CROSS REF: DOE Reg 603 CMR 38.04

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Proposed reconsideration:

NAMING NEW FACILITIES

Naming a school is an important matter that deserves thoughtful attention. Personal prejudice or favoritism, political pressure, or temporary popularity should not be an influence in choosing a school name. A name with educational significance or inspiration should be chosen. The School Committee also feels that it is appropriate to name schools for physical locations; geographical areas; distinguished local, state, and national leaders whose names will lend dignity and stature to the school; or significant or pertinent events.

The Superintendent will prepare for the approval of the School Committee a procedure to follow in recommending names for school buildings, facilities, and grounds to the Milton School Committee. Whenever possible, the wishes of the community, including parents and students, should be considered in naming new facilities.

It is expected that an orderly, announced procedure will lessen the community or factional pressures that so quickly build up when the selection is delayed or seems uncertain. A prompt decision will reduce disappointments and advance community solidarity. Much confusion in accounts, files, and records can be avoided if a new school can be identified by name before the planning starts.

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Proposed reconsideration:

SITE/FACILITY RENOVATIONS OR IMPROVEMENTS

Playground Equipment

The School Committee believes that playground equipment on school grounds maximizes the benefit to the children of the community and provides a safe environment for play. Although the size and configuration of some sites may necessarily prohibit the construction of playground equipment, the Milton Public Schools support such endeavors for a number of reasons. The quality of play influences the psychological, social and physical development of children, and playground equipment enhances play. The large muscle activity elicited by play on large, stationary equipment stimulates growth, strengthens bones and muscles, increases muscle endurance, and tends to lower the percentage of body fat in children. Playground equipment provides a setting in which children can explore, discover, create, and gain mastery of new movements.

Those interested in constructing playground equipment (both school and non-school personnel) must follow the guidelines/regulations which govern any proposed alterations to school sites.

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Proposed reconsideration:

GUIDELINES FOR RENOVATIONS/IMPROVEMENTS TO SCHOOLS OR SCHOOL SITES

Prior to the alteration of any school facility or site, or the replacement or installation of equipment thereon:

1. The Principal will obtain approval from the Superintendent to initiate such plans.
2. Appropriate school staff will be consulted.
3. If necessary, the appropriate town department will be consulted.
4. Professional consultants must be authorized by the Superintendent or, where applicable, by the School Building Committee.
5. Contact with sales representatives must be authorized by the Superintendent or, where applicable, by the School Building Committee.. Information may be sought in regard to:
 - a. manufacturer's warranties
 - b. proof of product liability insurance
 - c. installation warranties
 - d. warranties and liability insurance for installation
 - e. cost of equipment, freight, insurance, and installation
 - f. materials and their safety
 - g. space recommendations and offsets
 - h. time lag between delivery and installation and security during time lag
 - i. life expectancy of equipment
 - j. recommended maintenance schedule and annual cost of inspections and maintenance
6. Preliminary plans should include the following information:
 - a. location of utilities
 - b. accountability for parking, snow removal, site security
 - c. type and amount of equipment
 - d. manufacturer's warranties
 - e. proof of liability insurance
 - f. installation warranties
 - g. warranties and liability insurance of construction
 - h. surface preparation and materials
 - i. time schedule
 - j. maintenance requirements
 - k. references
 - l. plans for financing the project
 - m. compliance with regulations/guidelines governing construction of playgrounds
 - n. procedures for ensuring health and safety of occupants during renovations
7. The entire package of material shall be submitted to the Superintendent for his/her review and final approval of the School Committee and, where applicable, by the School Building Committee. The package should include the recommendations of the school Principal and other appropriate personnel including town departments.

CROSS REF: DOE 603 CMR 38.00; Policy EBAC

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Proposed reconsideration: