

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Sharon Iovanni

781-248-9754

siovanni01@gmail.com

STONEHAM, Ma - The Stoneham School Building Committee recently completed the next step in its journey toward bringing a 21st century high school complex to the students and community of Stoneham with the submission to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) of the Preliminary Design Program (PDP) on October 6, 2020.

The PDP, a 1,400 page product of the last six months of meetings and community forums for groups of stakeholders - teachers, students, community members and municipal and business representatives - visioning sessions, written education plans, considerations of more than ten proposed design alternatives, engagements with specialists and ultimately the decision to choose five of the ten proposed designs to move forward to the next decision process, which will be completed in December 2020, with the submission of the Preferred Schematic Report to the MSBA. Participants were guided through the process by the OPM for the project, Symmes Maini & McKee Associates, and the architect, Perkins&Will.

“It’s a huge milestone to get to this point,” says SSBC Co-Chair David Bois. “However, this is just one of a series of significant steps as we move toward a detailed plan for the building. Stoneham is fortunate to have an extremely talented design and project management team in Perkins&Will and Symmes Maini McKee Associates – they have gone above and beyond in presenting the Building Committee with information and options. Through the work of the School Department, the Town, the Building Committee and community members to date, we are well positioned to deliver Stoneham the high school project that will bring lasting benefits to the community and students for years to come.”

Among the many decisions required of the SSBC over the last few months was the choice to participate in a Zero Net Energy (ZNE) program, which means that the resulting complex will produce as much clean, renewable energy on the building and surrounding grounds in a given period as it uses from the electric provider in the same time period. This is important to Stoneham as the high school complex will be the single largest energy user in town and being ZNE will reduce Town costs over the decades of the building’s use.

“As someone whose grandchildren will be among the first students to attend the future Stoneham High School, I am excited to be working with such an amazing group of individuals whose sole goal is to create a structure that will serve our future high school students and the community for years to come,” says SSBC member Sharon Iovanni. “We envision a complex that will offer not only education for our students, but for our community, from Pre-K to senior citizen, a complex that will provide wellness and creativity opportunities both inside and outside of the building’s walls and a complex that will represent the best of our community to everyone who sees it.”

Over the next two months, the SSBC will work on preparation of the next document to be submitted to the MSBA – the Preferred Schematic Report which will identify the final choice for the future high school project. The Committee continues to seek community input on this aspect of the work and encourages everyone to participate in community forums as they are held and in bi-weekly meetings. Upcoming meetings will be held on October 26, November 9, November 23, December 7 and December 21. Community Forum #3 will be held on November 7 and Community Forum #4 will be held on December 9.

Stoneham Community TV broadcasts the Forums and Stoneham School Building Committee meetings, which can be viewed on their website. The previous Stoneham School Building Committee meetings and Community Forums can be found on Stoneham TV's Education Channel in the OnDemand section of the website. This and other meetings can be viewed either on television, computer or mobile device, using the OnDemand feature on the SC TV website.

A list of upcoming meetings, agenda and minutes, timelines and information can be found at the SSBC webpage - <https://www.stoneham-ma.gov/627/School-Building-Committee>. Residents can also submit emails with questions and comments to SSBC@stoneham-ma.gov.

Details for connecting to the bi-weekly remote meetings will be posted to the SSBC webpage link listed above.