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STONEHAM SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE OPTS FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION

Stoneham, MA – Members of the Stoneham School Building Committee (SSBC) reached another milestone on Wednesday night as they voted on a preferred option for the future Stoneham High School. After discussing all options and considering community feedback from two public surveys and four Community forums, the members voted to adopt option 4B – the construction of a new three story building on the south east corner of the high school property at 149 Franklin Street.

The Committee's decision will be formally presented to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) in the Preferred Schematic Report which will be submitted on December 23, 2020. The MSBA will review the submission and consider approving the Committee to move into the schematic design phase of the project.

"I cannot express how pleased I am with the selection of the 4B building plan as the preferred option for a new Stoneham High School" said Principal Bryan Lombardi following the vote.

"This option provides Stoneham students and the community with a school building and campus which showcases and emphasizes 21st Century Learning, community and collaboration, technology, project based learning, environmental stewardship and interdisciplinary engagement. It is an educational setting which highlights three essential components of a Stoneham High School education - Academics, Arts and Athletics. It will motivate, encourage and inspire Spartans for many years to come!"

The proposed building will include all of the expected areas – i.e. classrooms, cafeteria, a gymnasium and a 600 seat auditorium – and exciting new areas including maker spaces, collaboration areas, pre-k learning center, turf athletic fields, a dedicated Community Presentation space, and walking paths, all of which will provide learning and recreational opportunities for everyone in the community. The building will be constructed to be Zero Net Energy compliant, which will not only conserve natural resources but will ultimately reduce the cost of energy used by the building.

“I am excited that we have come this far in the process,” said Select Board Chair and Committee member Raymie Parker following the meeting. “I am particularly grateful for the over 400 completed surveys that provided us with lots of new ideas and suggestions and to all those who attended and publicly commented on our work to date in the virtual Community Forums. All those voices were heard by the Committee and our decision reflects those voices as well as our own. I look forward to continued feedback as we move into the next phase, where we will refine the project and define all aspects of the complex to ensure that it meets our community’s expectations and gives our future students the spaces they need to grow and learn in new ways.”

The Stoneham School Building Committee (SSBC) is comprised of municipal employees from the School and Town departments, elected representatives from the Select Board, School Committee and Finance & Advisory Board and citizens with a variety of talents and skills suited to the work of bringing a 21st century high school to the students and community of Stoneham. The Committee partners with OPM Symmes Maini McKee and architects Perkins& Will.

Meetings are generally held twice a month on Monday evenings beginning at 7:00 p.m. The School Building Committee meetings are open to all and the Committee welcomes your attendance and input. Details for attending meetings virtually can be found at <https://www.stoneham-ma.gov/hsbc>.

If you cannot attend the meeting in person, you can find online versions of the meeting live, on Stoneham TV government channels (Comcast 22, RCN 15 and Verizon 36). You can also view the meetings at any time on <https://www.stonehamtv.org/ondemand> in the Stoneham School Building Committee section.