

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sharon Iovanni

siovanni01@gmail.com

781-248-9754

The Spartan Story – Envisioning Stoneham High School 2024

Stoneham, MA –It's been eight years since the first Statement of Interest regarding Stoneham's 50+ year old high school project was first proposed to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), and denied. After several attempts through 2017 another attempt was made in March of 2018 and in an exciting shift, the MSBA invited Stoneham into the Eligibility Period on December 12, 2018 and in October, 2019 invited Stoneham into the Feasibility Study period and the work began.

The Stoneham School Building Committee was formed, 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. This group set to work finding an Owners Project Manager - Symmes Maini McKee, and later approving Perkins&Will, as the group's design architects and most recently, the hiring of the Construction Manager at Risk - Consigli Construction Company, Inc.

The Committee faced numerous challenges as its work continued including the impact of the Covid Pandemic, which forced meetings online, and yet the work continued. By October, 2020, the Committee was ready to submit its 400 page Preliminary Design Program (PDP), which detailed the five options the Committee was considering for the new High School. With MSBA's approval of the PDP, the Committee next began work on refining its options and in December 2020, submitted an equally voluminous Preferred Schematic Design proposal to the MSBA, which was approved on February 11, 2021.

The Committee is currently working to refine the design and anticipated costs for submission of the Schematic Design Documents, which is due to the MSBA on July 7, 2021. It is anticipated that a final decision will be rendered by the MSBA on August 25th 2021.

The proposed new building will be sited on the current Franklin Street property in the southeast corner, on what is currently a practice field. The building design is comprised of

two wings, connected by Spartan Place on the first floor and a media bridge on the second floor. The east side of the building will house the District Offices, the High School offices, a Pre-Kindergarten Program including eight classrooms, academic classrooms on the second and third floors, a gymnasium with an elevated walking track and skylights, and the food service and cafeteria area with access to Spartan Plaza, an outdoor seating and potential classroom space. The west side of the building will be two stories with a state-of-the-art Auditorium with media spaces, music and choral class spaces and maker spaces.

The current design also includes an amphitheater for outdoor school and community cultural events, community walking paths around the perimeter of the property, re-aligned athletic fields with turf or natural grass and tennis courts all of which will also be accessible to town leagues.

“The new school will provide the students of Stoneham a vibrant and state of the art educational facility that will best support 21st Century learning,” says SHS Principal Bryan Lombardi. “The new Stoneham High School will provide students the relevant learning experiences, content and skill development to support their success in a competitive world of post-secondary education and career choices.”

The SSBC Project Goals focused on providing flexible 21st century educational spaces with learning communities that promote interdisciplinary and project-based learning; on providing a long-term solution to our aging high school building; on engineering a school that is efficient and capable of operating at Zero Net Energy; on developing outdoor classrooms and gathering spaces for healthy connections to nature and athletics; on providing a safe Pre-K environment for a growing program that will make more room for a growing elementary population in neighborhood school buildings; and on mitigating as best possible the effects the project has on area traffic challenges.

The proposed complex will accomplish many of the stated goals, providing an auditorium large enough to house Town and Community meetings if needed, a modern central kitchen to provide meals for the elementary and high school programs and a space to host smaller events such as Stoneham High School’s highly successful National History Day project – all in a building designed to meet Zero Net Energy Goals using no fossil fuels, a geothermal heat exchange system and a focus on low carbon/material health, with an anticipated payback period of six to eight years. Rain Gardens placed along the entrance, will collect and screen rainwater which flows into the drainage system, providing an environmental benefit, as well as an educational opportunity for science classes.

Over the coming months, the SSBC will continue to work with SMMA, Perkins&Will and Consigli Construction to refine the indoor and outdoor spaces on the site and prepare for the final submission to the MSBA in July. A Community Forum will be held virtually on May 26 at 6:30 p.m. to provide a progress update. The Committee also plans to present project plans to community stakeholders, including business groups and non-profit organizations, as well as town Committees and Boards both virtually and in person. The Committee will also present a number of informational videos on local access television to be aired over the summer months.

SSBC Meetings are held twice a month on Monday evenings beginning at 7:00 p.m. virtually. 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. For more detailed information about the SSBC including meeting minutes, presentations and upcoming meetings, visit <http://www.stoneham-ma.gov/hsbc>.