

Town of Southborough, Massachusetts

Neary Building Committee

January 8, 2025

7:00 PM

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, An Act Relative to Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency, signed into law on June 16, 2021, this meeting will be conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance by members of the public will be permitted.

Neary Building Committee:

Members Present: Roger Challen, Mark Davis (virtually), Andrew Pfaff (virtually arrived at 8:10 pm), and Jason Malinowski (virtually)

Members Absent: Denise Eddy, Kathryn Cook, and Chris Evers

Ex-Officio

Members Present: Gregory Martineau Superintendent of Schools, Stefanie Reinhorn, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Keith Lavoie Assistant Superintendent of Operations, and Rebecca Pellegrino, Assistant Superintendent of Finance

Members Absent: Kathleen Valenti, Neary School Principal, Steven Mucci, Principal of Woodward School, Mark Purple, Town Administrator, and Brian Ballantine Town Treasurer/ Finance Director

I. Call Meeting to Order

The Neary Building Committee began its presentation at 7:55 PM; however, Jason Malinowski did not call the meeting to order as there was no quorum. Once Andrew Pfaff arrived, Jason Malinowski officially called the Neary Building Committee meeting to order at 8:10 PM.

II. Project Update Presentation to Southborough School Committee

Jason Malinowski shared that the Neary School project is progressing through the schematic design phase, focusing on optimizing school flow, room sizes, and the addition of key spaces such as art rooms and gymnasiums. Cost estimations and operational savings are underway, with preliminary reviews expected in February. The District has been asked to provide detailed analyses, focusing on both short-term savings during construction and long-term operational efficiencies. The project team is also addressing concerns about overall costs, the impact on individual taxpayers, and the adjacent landfill.

The design considerations for the Neary Project include adding an additional art room to meet educational needs and addressing the size of the gymnasium to accommodate both

school activities and community user groups. A balance has been achieved by designing the gym with both large and small courts, as well as collapsible bleachers to optimize space and functionality. These adjustments reflect ongoing discussions with school administration and educators to ensure the building supports both academic and extracurricular activities effectively.

The communication strategies for the Neary School project emphasize clear, consistent messaging to educate the community on the project's benefits and address concerns. Open office hours are planned to engage with residents and answer questions, with special attention on voter education ahead of critical town meeting, which is on May 10, 2025. Suggestions include incorporating student voices, particularly sixth graders, to highlight the improvements the project will bring, and refining the messaging, and create a one-page summary of educational advantages for a building project. Additionally, frequently asked questions will be addressed to ensure transparency and clarity in communication.

Superintendent Martineau emphasizes that operational savings are not intended to reduce staff but rather to maintain current staffing levels while enhancing resources. Supporting teachers with professional development, improved facilities, and additional tools.

Chelsea Malinowski will collaborate with Superintendent Martineau to compile the top three frequently asked questions and ensure they have standardized answers. This will help the School Committee provide consistent responses, as sending out mixed messages is the last thing they want. Jason mentioned that the Communications Subcommittee has developed a list of frequently asked questions, which can be found on the Neary Building Project website. They are currently working on reorganizing these questions based on their priority and the frequency with which they are asked.

III. Other business that may properly come before the Committee (None at this time)

IV. Adjournment

Jason Malinowski requested a motion to adjourn.

Jason Malinowski moved, Andrew Pfaff seconded, and it was unanimously voted by roll call, "To adjourn the Neary Building Committee."

MOTION TO
ADJOURN

Roll Call

For: Andrew Pfaff, Mark Davis, Roger Challen, and Jason Malinowski

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Jason Malinowski adjourned the meeting at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mariana Silva, Central Office Administrative Assistant

Office of Superintendent

List of documents used at this meeting:

1. Neary Building Committee Agenda of January 8, 2025

Town of Southborough, Massachusetts**Neary Building Committee****January 8, 2025****7:00 PM****Virtual Zoom Meeting**

May be watched or may participate in the meeting remotely with the meeting link at: <https://nsboro-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/88374099858>

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Agenda (all items may have one or more votes taken to the extent action is required):

- I. Call Meeting to Order
- II. Project Update Presentation to Southborough School Committee
- III. Other business that may properly come before the Committee
- IV. Adjournment

Jason W. Malinowski, Chair