

Town of Southborough, Massachusetts  
Neary Building Committee – Communications Subcommittee

January 31, 2025

9:00 AM

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, Denise Eddy, and Jason Malinowski

**Members Absent:** None

Ex-Officio

**Members Present:** Kathleen Valenti, Neary School Principal

**Members Absent:** Stefanie Reinhorn, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

- I. Call Meeting to Order  
Jason Malinowski called the NBC – Communications Subcommittee meeting to order at 9:01 am.
- II. Approval of Outstanding Meeting Minutes  
The Subcommittee will vote to approve meeting minutes at their next meeting.
- III. Debrief of feedback received to date  
Jason Malinowski shared feedback from various groups to help the Subcommittee consider the next steps in communicating with the community. He noted that there have been two sessions with the Kinder Group. The main feedback included the need for additional details on the educational benefits of the project, concerns about insufficient discussions regarding costs, inquiries about the transition plan, and questions about staffing structures that were referred to the administration.

During the first open office hours, there were four participants, primarily from the senior community. They raised concerns about communication and advertising for the event. Jason mentioned that the event was posted on Facebook and the blog, but email notifications were sent out late. For future action, flyers will be distributed earlier to provide better notice. There was significant concern over costs, and participants questioned why the more expensive option was chosen. The group decided to revisit

other options and clarified that, while the chosen option may have had the largest number, a variety of alternatives did not make financial sense. Questions were raised about the proximity to the landfill and why Finn School was not considered as an option. Additionally, the Public Accessibility Committee requested involvement in the design review after project funding to ensure that accessibility standards are met. There was considerable discussion about the inefficient use of school buses in town, with frustration expressed over empty buses and traffic congestion around schools. Lastly, questions were raised regarding why parents of school-aged children are not attending the meetings.

IV. Discussion of website updates

Jason Malinowski has initiated a process to improve the website's design, mainly by making the headers more prominent for easier navigation. Roger Challen suggested the FAQs be more visible on the website.

V. Communication Plan Update

Open office hours have been scheduled through the beginning of March. The goal is to explore alternative methods of information sharing for user groups. This topic should be discussed, along with the communication regarding the project's costs, after receiving the updated cost during the next full Neary Building Committee meeting.

VI. Review and release of FAQs (None at this time)

VII. Public Comment (None at this time)

VIII. Meeting Schedule – February 10, 2025

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

X. Adjournment

Jason Malinowski requested a motion to adjourn.

Jason Malinowski moved, Roger Challen seconded, and it was unanimously voted by roll call, “To adjourn.”

MOTION TO ADJOURN
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*Roll Call*

*For: Roger Challen, Denise Eddy, and Jason Malinowski*

*Opposed: None*

*Abstained: None*

Jason Malinowski adjourned the meeting at 9:29 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mariana Silva, Central Office Administrative Assistant

Office of Superintendent

List of documents used at this meeting:

1. NBC – Communications Subcommittee Agenda of January 31, 2025

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May be watched or may participate in the meeting remotely with the meeting link at: <https://ma-southborough.civicplus.com/674/Virtual-Meetings>

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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. Approval of Outstanding Meeting Minutes
- III. Debrief of feedback received to date
- IV. Discussion of website updates
- V. Communication Plan Update
- VI. Review and release of FAQs
- VII. Public Comment
- VIII. Meeting Schedule
- IX. Other business that may properly come before the Committee
- X. Adjournment

Jason W. Malinowski, NBC Chair