

June 27, 2018

Arlington High School Building Committee selects Alternative/Option 3a

Dear APS Community

At its meeting last evening, the Arlington High School Building Committee (AHSBC) discussed the Pros and Cons of each alternative building design and selected Alternative/Option 3a, a completely new building that will have wings built on some of the front green. Alternative/Option 3a is a modification of Alternative/Option 3 based on a response from the AHSBC and community feedback to HMFH Architects, Inc. that performing arts and the auditorium be moved to the front of the building to improve community access. It is important to note that the diagram of 3a (below) at this point in the process represents “massing” relationships. It is not the final design of the building, which will be refined during the next phase of the project.

The process leading to last night’s vote involved months of studying and discussing many options for a renovated/rebuilt school. Input from teachers, administrators, parents, students and the Arlington community was solicited during community forums and through surveys available on the AHS building website (<https://ahsbuilding.org>). During January, a representative group of sixty teachers, administrators, parents, students and community members met for twelve hours over three sessions to develop guiding principles for the project. All of this input was taken into consideration in the decision made by the AHSBC.

The key positives for selecting Alternative (Option) 3a included:

- Supports the educational vision
- Provides a strong alignment with guiding principles for the project
- Is the second least expensive option to construct and likely the least expensive to operate
- Constructing on part of the front green shortens construction time and creates swing space, minimizing disruption during construction and the need for modular classrooms
- Maintains some of the front green
- The new building affords more opportunity for sustainability and offers the highest potential to achieve the Net Zero goal by incorporating rooftop solar panels and the potential for a geothermal heat pump
- Performing Arts building is located in the front of the building on Mass Ave for more direct community access
- Core educational wings are both in the front and back of the building
- Gym is directly accessible to the fields
- Provides design for good community use of the building
- Creates fewer soil contamination issues
- Provides ample and varied access to exterior green space
- Offers the best layout for parking
- New construction eliminates unexpected costs that can occur in the renovation of older buildings
- New school will provide iconic identity for AHS

The next step in the process is for Skanska USA Building, the Owners Project Manager, to submit on behalf of the District the AHSBC approved Preferred Schematic Report (PSR) to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) on or before July 11. Assuming that MSBA approves the PSR at their August meeting, the Schematic Design phase ([Module 4 - Schematic Design](#)) of the project will begin after the MSBA vote of approval. During the next phase of the process, a more

detailed design of the building will be developed to establish the project scope, budget and schedule for the proposed project. MSBA Board of Directors will need to approve the proposed project in order to enter into a Project Scope and Budget Agreement and a Project Funding Agreement with the District. Arlington voters will need to approve Arlington's share of the cost before construction plans are developed. As was true during the Feasibility Study, the community will have opportunities for input regarding the design of the new school.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the process that led to the decision last night. The AHSBC looks forward to your continued participation as we move forward together to provide a 21st century high school for the children in Arlington.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

