

**Meeting Minutes
Saugus Board of Selectmen
Thursday, May 11th at 6:00 PM**

Attendees: Selectman Cicolini, Selectman D'Eon, Selectman Chair Debra Panetta, Town Manager Scott Crabtree

Meeting began: 6:00 PM

The Chair welcomed the Board members, the Town Manager, and the ladies and gentlemen in the audience. She explained that this is a Special Meeting that was requested by the Town Manager. Selectman Brazis and Selectman Mitchell were unable to make this meeting due to conflicting obligations.

The Town Manager would like the Board to call a special Town Meeting for Tuesday, May 30th. He also explained that he'd like to have a special election for Tuesday, June 20th. The town manager explained both articles that he'd like inserted into the warrant and put on the ballot. This will be a debt exclusion. The town just received the appropriate verbiage for the articles, where we need to adhere to the Secretary of State's election rules as well as logistically move through the MSBA process. Both the Bond Counsel and the MSBA needed to approve the language.

The first article is for a new middle/high school and the second one is a master plan which is part of the district-wide solution.

- Pre-K to 2nd grade would be at the Veterans Memorial School.
- Grades 3-5 would be at the Belmonte.
- Grades 6-12 would be at the new Middle/High school.

Every child of that grade in Saugus would attend the same school.

MSBA will pay 53.32%, at a minimum. The Town Manager believes the reimbursement will be higher. With the construction escalation costs as well as the MSBA program possibly not being offered at this level in the future, there will never be a less expensive time to build. Just to fix the high school would cost \$110 Million, and that is just to bring it up to code. Considering this, the cost of doing nothing is not an option. We need to change the way we value education in our community. It is important that we bring our school system from a current Level 3 district to a Level 1 district.

Selectman Cicolini stated that residents need to understand why people leave the school district to attend other schools (e.g., Voke, charter, private). The town loses funding when a child doesn't attend the Saugus schools, and we would actually be saving money by bringing students back in-district. It was also discussed how the new Middle/High school would be a community building, where we could offer adult education classes, exercise classes, and other activities. A new school would help stabilize the entire community. Selectman Panetta mentioned that it was important that

the MSBA saw the key stakeholders in the town speaking in one voice about the need for a new school, always putting Saugus first.

Vote:

Selectman Cicolini moved to call the Special Town Meeting for Tuesday, May 30th at 7:30.

Seconded by the Chair

Vote: 3 in favor, 0 opposed

Vote:

Selectman Cicolini moved to insert both articles into the warrant, one concerning the new middle/high school and the other regarding the comprehensive master plan including the renovation to the Belmonte and Veterans Memorial school.

Seconded by the Chair

Vote: 3 in favor, 0 opposed

Vote:

Selectman Cicolini moved to close the Special Town Meeting warrant.

Seconded by the Chair

Vote: 3 in favor, 0 opposed

Vote:

Selectman D'Eon moved to sign the warrant.

Seconded by the Chair

Vote: 3 in favor, 0 opposed

Vote:

Selectman D'Eon moved to call a Special Election for Tuesday, June 20th, which will include the two questions as outlined by the Town Manager.

Seconded by the Chair

Vote: 3 in favor, 0 opposed

Vote:

Selectman D'Eon voted to sign the Special Election ballot.

Seconded by the Chair

Vote: 3 in favor, 0 opposed

The Town Manager noted how this was great news, and the most important thing now is to get as much information out to the public so that they could make an educated decision about the school district and the future of Saugus.

Vote:

Selectman Cicolini made a motion to adjourn.

Seconded by the Chair

Vote: 3 in favor, 0 opposed

Meeting adjourned at 6:28 PM

Attach copy of signed warrant to minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

**Debra Panetta
Chairman, Board of Selectmen**

ARTICLE

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, an amount of money to be expended under the direction of the Town Manager to design, engineer, construct and equip the New Saugus Middle / High School and athletic facilities located at Pearce Memorial Drive in Saugus, MA, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Middle / High School Project"). The Middle / High School Project school facilities shall have an anticipated useful life as an educational facility for the instruction of school children for at least 50 years, and the Town may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA") for such Middle / High School Project. The Town acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any project costs the Town incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town. Any grant that the Town may receive from the MSBA for the Middle / High School Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) fifty-three and thirty-two one hundredths percent (53.32%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; or take any action relative thereto.

MOTION

That the Town appropriates the amount of One Hundred Sixty Million Seven Hundred Twenty Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-Three (\$160,720,553) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs to design, engineer, construct and equip the New Saugus Middle / High School and athletic facilities located at Pearce Memorial Drive in Saugus, MA, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto in the amount of \$160,720,553 (the "Middle / High School Project"), which school facility shall have an anticipated useful life as an educational facility for the instruction of school children for at least 50 years, and for which the Town may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of the Town Manager. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount under M.G.L. Chapter 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The Town acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any project costs the Town incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town; provided further that any grant that the Town may receive from the MSBA for the Middle / High School Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) fifty-three and thirty-two one hundredths percent (53.32%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; provided that any appropriation hereunder shall be subject to and contingent upon an affirmative vote of the Town to exempt the amounts required for the payment of interest and principal on said borrowing from the limitations on taxes imposed by M.G.L. 59, Section 21C (Proposition 2½); and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the Town and the MSBA. Any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

BALLOT QUESTION

Shall the Town of Saugus be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition two-and-one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued in order to design, engineer, construct and equip the New Saugus Middle / High School and athletic facilities located at Pearce Memorial Drive in Saugus, MA, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto?

ARTICLE

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, an amount of money to be expended under the direction of the Town Manager to (i) design, engineer, renovate and add to, and equip the Saugus Veterans Memorial School, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, and (ii) design, renovate and equip the Belmonte Middle School, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto; or take any action relative thereto.

MOTION

That the Town appropriates the amount of Twenty-Five Million Four Hundred Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Seven (\$25,408,907) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs to (i) design, engineer, renovate and add to, and equip the Saugus Veterans Memorial School, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, and (ii) design, renovate and equip the Belmonte Middle School, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount under M.G.L. Chapter 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority; provided that any appropriation hereunder shall be subject to and contingent upon an affirmative vote of the Town to exempt the amounts required for the payment of interest and principal on said borrowing from the limitations on taxes imposed by M.G.L. 59, Section 21C (Proposition 2½). Any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

BALLOT QUESTION

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