



Thomas A. Golden, Jr.
City Manager

School Building Committee Meeting *Meeting Minutes*

Date: April 2nd, 2026

Time: 6:00 P.M

Location: Mayor's Reception Room / Zoom

School Building Committee Members Present:

Thomas A. Golden, Jr. (City Manager / School Building Committee Chair), Mike Vaughn (Chief Procurement Officer), Fred Bahou (School Committee Member), Richard Underwood (Operations and Maintenance Director LPS), Michael Fiato (Head of School), Mark Byrne (Former DPW Commissioner), James Hall (LPS COO), William Samaras, (Former Mayor), John Leahy (LPS Assistant Operations and Maintenance Director), Rodney Elliot (Former State Representative / Mayor), Maria Sheehy (Community Member), Benjamin Opara (Community Member), John Haley (Community Member), Paul St. Cyr, (DPW Commissioner), Vanna Howard (State Senator), Erik Gitschier (City Mayor)

City Staff Present:

Shawn Machado (Assistant City Manager), Austin Ball (Deputy CFO)

Perkins Eastman Consultants Present:

Robin Greenburg

Skanska Consultants Present:

Kevin Kane

Suffolk Consultants Present:

Kyle Regis

The order of business was as follows:

I. Attendance / Roll Call:

Meeting Called to order at 6:05 P.M by S. Machado on behalf of T. Golden and asked to accept and place on file remote / zoom participation, roll call showed 15 present.

City of Lowell:

S. Machado asked the committee to review the minutes from the last meeting and to make a motion to place on file, Minutes passed by roll call, motion by W. Samaras and 2nd by M. Byrne.

II. Suffolk:

Phase 2 – Construction Update

Kyle – Completed phase 3 in auditorium, showed schedule timeline as well as detailed phasing plan. Showed progress photos of the project which included Coburn Hall as well as the rest of phase 4.

III. Suffolk – MBE Workforce Update:

Kyle – Currently exceeding the goal of the minority workforce, the goal is 15.3% and we are currently at 27.3%. Project goal for female workforce is 6.9% and currently we are at 5.3%. Lastly, the Lowell resident workforce is at 4.92%.

S. Machado – Any Questions?

V. Skanska – Budget / Cash Flow Update

Kevin - The total budget for the LHS project is \$418.1 million dollars which now factors in the additional loan order the City Council. Included in tonight's packet is BRR #4, which needs committee approval.

B. Opara – In the construction section asked about the beams in the future media center and if anything would be done with them.

Kevin – The beams will be removed.

M. Byrne – Can you give us the total on the remaining amount in construction contingency and how these “pending change requests” fit into that?

Kevin – That pending change request is estimated changes that we have received from Suffolk that we review and ask Suffolk to amend if applicable.

S. Machado – Next item on the agenda is BRR #4 for \$36 million.

R. Elliot – Asked what BRR #4 was for?

A. Ball – Explained that BRR#4 is a confirmatory vote by this body to send in this budget revision to the MSBA based on the new loan authorization the City Council approved for the additional work.

R. Elliot – Asked what happen if this vote doesn't pass.

A. Ball – The project team likely wouldn't have enough funding to complete this project.

R. Elliot – Asked about the change orders and whether we are getting the contractors/ subcontractors to sharpen their pencils.

Kevin – Yes, we are working with Suffolk.

Kyle – Suffolk is working with Skanska to reduce these as applicable.

F. Bahou – A couple votes ago we took money from FFE, with this additional funding will we put it back?

Kevin – Yes, there will be another BRR coming to put this funding back.

W. Samaras – Can you explain what steps you have taken to not go over this loan order?

Kevin – We have had many conversations with Suffolk and Perkins and we have gone through and reviewed the remaining items in the project with them to sharpen our pencils.

Kyle – Mentioned an example of having geo-tech engineer on site as we are learning from past experience so we don't have any delays or additional costs.

S. Machado – Motion to approve BRR#4, by M. Byrne, 2nd by B. Opara. Roll call (14 Yay's, 0 Nay's. Motion approved. (T. Golden, M. Vaughn, F. Bahou, R. Underwood, M. Fiato, M. Byrne, J. Hall, W. Samaras, J. Leahy, R. Elliot, M. Sheehy, B. Opara, P. St Cyr, V. Howard).

Next Steps:

S. Machado – Next SBC meeting will be 5/14/26 with the following Saturday 5/16 as a walkthrough.

Kevin – Continue with demolition on Phase 4 continue with the progress we are making.

S. Machado – Any Questions? (None at this time)

Motion to adjourn at 6:32 by M. Byrne, 2nd by W. Samaras so moved.