

SECTION F

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FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The School Committee believes that any educational program is influenced greatly by the environment in which it functions. The development of a quality educational program and school facilities that help to implement the program must go hand in hand.

Therefore, it is the Committee's goal to provide the facilities needed for the number of students in the District, and to provide the kind of facilities that will best support and accommodate the educational program. To best use local resources, it is the Committee's intent, wherever practicable, to partner with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

In planning facilities, the Committee recognizes that capital outlay funds are limited, and that priorities must be established to make the best use of the school building dollar. The Committee's first objective is to support educational programming, including adherence to class size guidelines. Whenever possible, the cultural as well as educational needs of the community will be considered in planning facility expansions.

LEGAL REF.: [963 CMR 2.00](#) (School Building Grant Program)

RETIREMENT OF FACILITIES

When a school building becomes inadequate by virtue of age, condition, size of site, lack of need, or other overriding limitations, and cannot reasonably and economically be brought up to the current educational standards, the building should be considered for a comprehensive closing study. The Superintendent will provide a recommendation to the School Committee on which facilities appear to justify further analysis.

The School Committee shall seek both professional advice and the advice of the community when making a decision as to the retirement of any school facility. This will permit the community, which originally acquired the property, to have a voice in the future use of the building and property.

A closing study will include direct involvement by those neighborhoods most directly impacted by the proposed facility retirement considered in the study and will be concerned with all or some of the following factors:

1. Age and current physical condition of the facilities, its operating systems, and program facilities.
2. Adequacy of site, location, access, surrounding development, traffic patterns, and other environmental conditions.
3. Reassignment of children, including alternative plans according to Committee policy.
4. Transportation factors, including numbers of children bused, time, distance, and safety.
5. Alternative uses of the building.
6. Cost/Savings
 - a. Personnel
 - b. Facilities Operation
 - c. Transportation
 - d. Capital Investment
 - e. Alternative Use
7. Continuity of instructional and community programs.

NAMING RIGHTS

Pursuant to the Town's policy, *Naming of Public Assets* (Town Bylaws [Article 5.5](#)), the School Committee shall have the authority to name or rename assets under its jurisdiction, provided, however, that the Committee shall not name any major physical assets, as more fully described in Section 5.5(b) of the Bylaws. Major physical assets under the jurisdiction of the Committee shall be named or renamed only by majority vote of Town Meeting after such name has been approved by the Committee.

Assets under the jurisdiction of the Committee that can be named or renamed exclusively by the Committee, include, but are not limited to, rooms, furniture, areas, parts of fields, roadways, parking lots, and other features of the physical environment of the schools.

Assets under the jurisdiction of the Committee that cannot be named or renamed without Town Meeting approval include school buildings and fields. No assets under the jurisdiction of the Committee shall be named or renamed by the Superintendent, any Principals, any other school employees, or any parent organization without the approval of the Committee.

Naming shall be limited as follows:

- Historic events, people and places – to preserve and honor the history of the town, state, or country; prominent historical figures; local landmarks, neighborhoods, or prominent geographical locations.
- Outstanding individuals – to acknowledge citizens who have contributed in a significant way to the public life and wellbeing of the town.
- Major gifts – to acknowledge major gifts, as defined in Policy KCD – Gifts and Bequests, from individuals, organizations, or corporations, by naming a public asset in recognition of said gift. The Committee will generally not entertain major gift-naming proposals, using the donor's name, by donors associated with donations of funds or equipment by citizens with children currently or prospectively enrolled in the Wellesley Public Schools. However, a gift may be submitted for consideration if the posting of the name is deferred until after the donor's children have graduated from the Wellesley Public Schools.

In naming or renaming an asset, the Committee shall give consideration to equitable treatment of similar assets in similar situations. The Committee shall rely on the Superintendent to undertake a process of consultation and consideration and review of any given naming proposal before making a recommendation for action by the Committee.

LEGAL REF.: Town Bylaws [Article 5.5](#) (Policies and Procedures – Naming of Public Assets)

CROSS REF.: KCD, Gifts and Bequests

MEMORIALS

The School Committee recognizes that the death of a student, member of the staff, or prominent community member is deeply felt by the school community. As places designed primarily to support learning, school sites should not serve as the main venue for permanent memorials.

In lieu of permanent memorials, donors may seek to establish awards or scholarships.

Any permanent memorials in existence before the adoption of this policy can only be removed by a vote of the Committee.