

**SECTION F**

**FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT**

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## **FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

The School Committee believes that any educational program is influenced greatly by the environment in which its 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 school system, and to provide the kind of facilities that will best support and accommodate the educational program.

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 will be to develop a plan that eliminates overcrowding. Whenever possible, the cultural as well as educational needs of the community will be considered in planning facility expansions.

Architects retained by the Committee are expected to plan for simplicity of design; sound economics, including low long-range maintenance costs and efficiency in energy needs; low insurance rates; high educational use; and flexibility.

LEGAL REF.:           963 CMR 2.0

## **FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

### Facilities

- (1) Every new school which is to be constructed and every addition to an existing school or program for modernization of an existing school shall be designed or planned so as to ensure that the educational opportunities to be offered within that school following its construction, expansion or reconstruction will be available equally to all students thereof without regard to the race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or national origin of any such student.
- (2) The goal of each school shall be to provide males and females with equal facilities and conveniences within a school which are separated for reasons of privacy, e.g. showers, locker rooms, changing rooms, toilets and lavatories. Any school to be constructed shall make such provision and any plan for the expansion or modernization of an existing school shall include whatever provision is necessary in order to achieve compliance with regulations.
- (3) When choosing a site for a new school facility, preferential considerations must be given to locations that maximize the number of students who can walk or bicycle to school.

Amended: August 14, 2017

LEGAL REF.: 963 CMR 2.0

## **FACILITIES PLANNING**

As the School Committee seeks to overcome deficiencies in its physical plant, it shall strive to provide new facilities that will provide the highest type of educational environment for all students.

Additionally, the Committee is vitally concerned with the fact that schools have been slow in responding to the rapid changes in many segments of our society. The Committee expresses an urgent desire for relevance in education that assures each child self-realization based on identified needs of the self and of the community, present and future. The Committee's commitment is to provide school facilities accommodating a quality education that will permit each child to grow and develop according to his or her own abilities and unique life style.

Thus new buildings and renovations to existing buildings shall be in accordance with new organizational patterns planned by the Committee and the new instructional programs anticipated.

Decisions pertaining to the construction of educational facilities will be made only after the viewpoints of teachers, students, parents, and other citizens have been considered. Any such decisions which involve major construction or a change of use of any school property or facility shall first require an opportunity for public input. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall provide 30 days prior notice of the date, place and time for a public input session, and shall report back to the School Committee at its next regularly scheduled meeting. Such report shall be required before any vote is taken by the School Committee involving major construction or a change of use of any school property or facility, provided, however, the School Committee may waive the requirement of a prior public input session and report if the Committee determines that an emergency situation exists which requires such waiver.

Architects employed by the Committee are expected to plan for simplicity of design, sound economics, including how long-range maintenance costs, high educational utility, and flexibility.

## **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 recommend to the School Committee, which facilities appear to justify further analysis.

The School Committee may seek both professional advice and the advice of the community in making its recommendations as to the retirement of any school facility. This will permit the public, which originally acquired the property, to benefit from its recycling or retirement.

A closing study will include direct involvement by those neighborhoods 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 bussed, time, distance, and safety
5. Alternative uses of the building
6. Cost/Savings
  - a. Personnel
  - b. Plant Operation
  - c. Transportation
  - d. Capital Investment
  - e. Alternative Use
7. Continuity of instructional and community programs

**POLICY FOR NAMING OF  
NEW BEDFORD SCHOOL DEPARTMENT FACILITIES**

Following are the guidelines for the naming of the New Bedford School Department facilities:

1. This policy covers the naming of any and all buildings, school grounds, athletic fields or portions thereof which are no smaller than a room or a clearly distinguishable section of an outdoor facility.
2. The person, persons or entity to be honored by the proposed naming must have some positive connection or relationship to the facility proposed to be named or be nationally or internationally recognized for positive contributions to society in general.
3. Nominations or suggestions for any naming may come from the school department administration, individual school administrators, school councils or members of the general public.
4. Facilities shall not be renamed unless the person, persons or entity after which they are presently named have been dishonored.
5. If the person, persons or entity proposed to have a facility name for them are alive, his/her or their consent shall be first obtained; if the person, persons or entity proposed to have a facility named for them have died, their families or survivors shall be consulted.
6. No proposal asking for School Committee permission to name a facility shall be acted upon at the first Committee meeting at which it is presented.
7. The naming of any facility shall require an affirmative vote of five (5) members of the School Committee.
8. Before a building or part of a building is to be named for an employee, said employee must be retired from the school system or out of the school system.