

## **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 School Committee recognizes that capital outlay funds are limited, and that priorities must be established to make best use of the school building dollar.

The School Committee has limited authority over school building projects initiated by the city of Greenfield, but the Committee nonetheless strongly urges the city to operate within the following guidelines:

- Architects retained by the city should develop plans which meet the educational and cultural needs of the community;
- Designs should incorporate sound economics including low long-range maintenance costs and low insurance rates;
- Buildings should embrace energy efficiency, including green engineering wherever feasible;
- Buildings should have sufficient flexibility to adapt to changing needs.

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REF.: 603 CMR 26:07

**NOTE: Because many towns currently are not contemplating extensive building programs and because School Committees have limited authority over school building projects initiated by the town, however, little space has been devoted in the Massachusetts Policy Reference Manual to policies in that area.**

**Adopted 2-8-06**

*Massachusetts Association of School Committees - 2003*

## **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, 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 603 CMR 26.07.

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REF.: 603 CMR 26:07

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## **FACILITIES PLANNING**

### School Building Committee

The Planning and Construction Committee for building and facilities creates a school building committee for specific building projects. These committees act as the administrative authority for the projects, subject to approval of various actions by the School Committee and town.

### Staff Planning

Arrangements will be made by the Superintendent, working through Principals, for the school staff to contribute in the planning of new school buildings. Teachers will be given the opportunity to submit suggestions for possible inclusion in the educational specifications.

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:37C and D; 71:68; 71:70  
Massachusetts Board of Education Regulations Governing the School Building Assistance Act  
Chapter 645 of the Acts of 1948 as amended, FY 79  
Board of Education 603 CMR 38:00 and 603 CMR 26:07

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## 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

SOURCE: MASC

**Adopted 2-8-06**

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## NAMING NEW FACILITIES

Naming a school is an important matter that deserves thoughtful attention. Personal prejudice or favoritism, political pressure, or temporary popularity should not be an influence in choosing a school name. A name with educational significance or inspiration should be chosen. The Committee also feels that it is appropriate to name schools for physical locations; geographical areas; distinguished local, state, and national leaders whose names will lend dignity and stature to the school; or significant or pertinent events.

The Superintendent will prepare for the approval of the Committee a procedure to follow in recommending names for school buildings. Whenever possible, the wishes of the community, including parents and students, should be considered in naming new facilities.

SOURCE: MASC

**Note: sentence/paragraph: listing the naming of the grounds of facilities within and about a building during the life of the structure.**

**Adopted 2-8-06**

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