SECTION F

FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT

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FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Dracut 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 and minimizes the need for extended day programs and double sessions. 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, efficiency in energy needs, low insurance rates; high educational use; and flexibility.

LEGAL REF.: 603 CMR 26:07

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 or expansion or reconstruction will be available equally to all students thereof without regard to the race, color, sex, religion or national origin of any such student.

(2) The goal of each school shall be to provide equal numbers of males and females with those facilities and conveniences within a school which are separated for reasons of privacy, e.g. Showers, locker rooms, changing rooms, toilets and lavoratories. 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.

LEGAL REF.: 603 CMR 26:07 Title IV

FACILITIES PLANNING

School Building Committee

The town manager 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 Dracut School Committee and town.

The school building committee has the following responsibilities:

1. To study and make recommendations to the town with respect to school building needs.

2. To review thoroughly with the superintendent and the school committee the educational requirements in relation to school buildings.

3. To review previous studies and initiate needed studies with or without consultative assistance.

4. To employ the services of architects and cost estimators and such other professional assistance as it may deem necessary.

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.

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

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 Dracut 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.

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NAMING OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

This policy of the Dracut School Committee in regard to the naming of school facilities is intended to reflect the consideration that any such eventuality merits very thoughtful attention and deliberation.

School Committee members should always act in a manner which would give credence to the distinctive honor which derives from the naming of any school-building, or any segment thereof, in recognition of a individual's distinctive services in behalf of the community-at-large or its school system.

It shall be the privilege and prerogative of any single School Committee member to present a motion in regard to the naming of a school building, or any segment thereof; and to place such a proposal before the School Committee to be voted upon formally at the next-following School Committee meeting after the original submission.

The School Committee herein reserves its right to name schools in terms of geographic location; significant or pertinent historical events; or distinctively renowned local, state and national leaders.

The School Committee herein designates its desire to be responsive, whenever feasible, to the wishes and expressions of citizens within a Community; and a willingness to receive and assess pertinent input from young and old alike in this regard.

Whenever approaching the task of naming a new school building, or any segment thereof, - - the School Committee members shall first define the specific procedure which will govern the submission of names for consideration by the Committee; and, in this process, will do everything possible to assure that the resultant process is orderly, well-publicized, and is designed to come to closure as expeditiously as possible.