

## **FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

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

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

Recognizing that school facilities are long-term community investments, the Committee will develop projects that reflect cost-effective designs, are consistent with good engineering practice, and use high quality construction, with attention to current and future technological practices for students, faculty, and school staff. Sites will be chosen to meet the educational need, maximize the use of any available community resources, and minimize any possible adverse education, environmental, social, or economic impacts on the community.

SOURCE: MASC August 2016

LEGAL REFS:       M.G.L. 70B  
                      963 CMR 2.00

## **ATHLETIC FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT NEEDS**

In order to ensure equity in athletic programs, the Athletic Director shall compile annually a report on the improvement needs of the various athletic facilities used by the Arlington High School athletic program.

This report will include information on the condition and needs of field, rinks, courts, etc. and associated amenities, as reported by coaches, with consideration of input from participants, parents and others familiar with the facilities. The report shall be made available to Town officials and shall be available to the public.

CROSS REF.: JJ-E, Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Activities

Adopted: September 27, 2005

SOURCE: Arlington

## **FACILITIES PLANNING ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS**

Each year the administration will make projections of class enrollment for all grades K-12 for the following fall. In addition, 5-10 year projections based on prior enrollments, birth data, and other pertinent data collected should also be given. The results are to be reported to the School Committee in March of each year.

Whenever the total enrollment projected for 1-2 years hence exceeds the capacity of a school building or shows a significant drop in student enrollment, the administration is to begin planning for those projected enrollment and changes needed to buildings to accommodate those new numbers of students.

Recommendations may include closing schools, leasing areas of a school, redistricting, additions or modifications or rebuilding of schools or any combination of these actions necessary to accommodate fluctuations in student enrollment.

The number of elementary school buildings will be based on:

- Projected enrollments of 5-10 years hence
- Educational equity and impact
- Budget considerations
- Safety and travel considerations
- Other matters deemed relevant

### **Elementary School Capacities**

For planning purposes, each elementary school shall compute its capacity as no more than 30 times the number of available rooms for classrooms in that building. Because each of our elementary schools is unique and the number of such available classrooms is variable year to year, capacity numbers for all 7 elementary schools will be computed and reported to the school committee in April of each year.

The yearly calculation of available classrooms in each elementary school must take into account provisions for the following, as possible:

- Central eating area
- Gymnasias
- Special Education Classrooms
- Administrative space
- Nursing station
- Kindergarten space
- Auditoria
- Library
- Art
- Music

- Counseling and Tutoring space
- Before and after school programs
- Special use classrooms such as science labs, computer labs, etc.

**Redistricting Elementary Schools**

Students are assigned to an elementary school following the policy JC Attendance Areas.

CROSS REF.: JC, Attendance Areas

Revised: September 27, 2012

SOURCE: Arlington

## **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 bused, 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

## **POLICY FOR SPECIAL DEDICATIONS OF SCHOOL 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 name. It is expected that an orderly, announced procedure will lessen the community or factional pressures that so quickly build up when the selection is delayed or seems uncertain.

From time to time the School Committee may choose to recognize outstanding service to the youth of Arlington by dedicating or naming an appropriate area (i.e. playground, library, gymnasium, auditorium etc.) in honor of some exceptional individual(s) who have unselfishly given their time and energy in promoting excellence in education.

At the request of the Superintendent or any individual School Committee member the Chairperson will place a dedication request on the agenda of a regular school committee meeting for discussion and a vote to refer via letter from the Chairperson such request to the Public Memorial Committee for an advisory opinion. The Chairperson will place such a proposal before the Committee as soon as the Committee has sufficient biographical and/or other data available to enable the full Committee to adequately reflect or deliberate a formal motion of dedication. Upon receipt of the Public Memorial Committee's advisory opinion or at least thirty days after the referral to the Public Memorial Committee, whichever is sooner, the Chairperson will again place the request on the agenda for a final vote.

If the School Committee approves a dedication, this will be followed as soon as possible by a formal dedication. The ceremony should encompass a presentation of an official proclamation and the placement of an appropriate plaque to commemorate the individuals' significant contribution to the Arlington Public Schools. A certain sensitivity and common sense must be reflected in the timing of any public recognition.

It is the policy of the School Committee that the names of existing structures or physical spaces under our jurisdiction will not be changed. Historical preservation and respect for our traditions are a key component in honoring our past.

Revised - April 26, 2005

SOURCE: Arlington

## **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.

Permanent memorials within the schools shall be limited in form to perpetual awards or scholarships.

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

SOURCE: MASC August 2016