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FACILITIES PLANNING AND 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 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. Whenever possible, the cultural as well as educational needs of the community will be considered in planning facility expansions.

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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

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NAMING NEW FACILITIES

The naming or renaming of school buildings, grounds, adjacent fields, or areas within school buildings is the responsibility of the School Committee.

A community member may propose a naming or renaming by submitting to the School Committee a written summary outlining the merits of the proposal. The proposal will be presented to the School Committee at a regularly scheduled School Committee meeting. The School Committee will vote on the proposal no sooner than the following regularly scheduled School Committee meeting after the name is discussed to allow for a period for public comment.

The School Committee may appoint an external committee to review a proposal.

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