

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 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 as well as future enrollment projections, and to provide the kind of facilities that will best support and accommodate the current and future educational program and student population.

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 design an education facility that fully supports the educational program and meets the standards and expectations of the community.

LEGAL REF.: 963 CMR 2.00

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 603 CMR 26.07.

LEGAL REF.:963 CMR 2.00

RETIREMENT OF FACILITIES

When, in the opinion of the Superintendent in consultation with the School Committee, 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 retirement 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

In the event the School Committee approves the retirement of an existing school building, written notice will be given to the Town in accordance with Town Charter provisions.

LEGAL REFS.: Natick Town Charter

NAMING POLICY

Naming a school facility (e.g. building, structure, or property) is an important matter that deserves thoughtful attention. Personal prejudice or favoritism, political pressure, or temporary popularity should not be an influence in this process. The Natick School Committee has the sole authority to approve the naming and renaming of facilities and subsections (e.g. classrooms, auditoriums, and gymnasiums) located on school property.

Names and/or wording associated with school facilities shall be consistent with school policies and promote messages aligned with the goals of the Natick Public Schools.

To the extent possible, approved names and/or wording should not restrict the use or function of a space.

The following is a recommended procedure for naming requests:

- Submission of a name for a school facility may be made by any Natick resident, business organization, individual school community, or the Superintendent in writing and should be made to the Chairman of the Natick School Committee.
- The written request should specify the intent of the requestor and the reasons why this particular name would fit with the facility. It should offer appropriate background information on the person or organization in the request. An offer of a financial contribution to the Natick Public Schools is welcomed but not required.
- For any naming request accompanied by a financial contribution, a standard gift agreement between the donor and the School Committee must be drawn up and approved at the same time as the name is voted. The standard agreement will specify the specific area named, the duration of the naming period, specific placement of naming materials, as well as the payment terms. These agreements will be considered part of the public record and kept on file by the School Administration for access by the public.
- The School Committee will introduce, discuss and vote according to the following practice, permitting room on the agenda
 - Upon receipt, the request will be sent to the School Committee Members.
 - The request will be announced at the next School Committee meeting and be made available to the public for review.
 - The request will then be presented as an agenda item at the following full School Committee meeting.
 - At the following meeting, the request will be presented as an agenda item and voted upon.
 - The timeline could be extended if high priority items do not allow sufficient time on the agenda for adequate discussion.

Ring of Honor:

The Natick School Committee has established the “Ring of Honor” to recognize special members of the Natick community who have given tirelessly to benefit the Natick Public Schools, its students, and programs. The goal of the “Ring of Honor” is to recognize individuals who have made extraordinary efforts that distinguish them. The “ring” itself consists of standardized plaques located on the field house

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at Memorial Field. Nominations for this special honor should be submitted in writing to School Committee with a detailed explanation of why the particular individual should be considered for inclusion. The process otherwise follows the same one for naming requests described above.

Memorials for Deceased Students and/or Staff:

The School Committee recognizes that the death of a student or member of the staff is deeply felt by the school community. As places designed primarily to support learning, school facilities should not serve as the main venue for permanent memorials for students or staff.

Permanent memorials for deceased students or staff shall be limited in form to perpetual awards or scholarships.

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

Approved by the Natick School Committee: November 6, 2017