

## **SECTION F**

### **FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT**

FA:	FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT GOALS	1
FA-E:	FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT GOALS	2
FB:	FACILITIES PLANNING	3
FCB:	RETIREMENT OF FACILITIES	4
FF:	NAMING NEW FACILITIES	5

## **FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

The Regional 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 district, 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 communities 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 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, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or limited English speaking ability 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 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:           603 CMR 26:07

## **FACILITIES PLANNING**

### **School Building Committee**

The Regional School Committee 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 towns.

The school building committee has the following responsibilities:

1. To study and make recommendations to the towns with respect to school building needs.
2. To review thoroughly with the Superintendent and the Regional 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  
FY 79 Shirley Town Charter, Sec. 6-1

## **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 Regional School Committee which facilities appear to justify further analysis.

The 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.

## **NAMING NEW FACILITIES**

Only the Regional School Committee can name school buildings, facilities, grounds, rooms within school buildings, or any other real property under the purview of the School Committee. Choosing a name is an important matter that deserves thoughtful attention. Personal prejudice or favoritism, political pressure, or temporary popularity should not be an influence in a naming dedication. The committee traditionally considers distinguished local citizens or state and national leaders whose names would lend dignity and stature to the school. An honoree may be a person who is living, or who has been deceased for 3 or more years for consideration.

SOURCE: MASC

First Reading, October 10, 2018

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