



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR

MEMORANDUM

April 26, 2024

The purpose of this memo is to provide a brief update on the status of the School Building Committee, as well as the SPS Construction Advisory Group and greater community process that will serve and inform the school building process for the Winter Hill Community Innovation School and potentially the Brown School.

School Building Committee (SBC)

Role

An SBC is a requirement of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), and provides technical guidance and fiscal oversight during the planning, design, and construction of a new school building project.

Status

The MSBA deadline for composing the SBC is this Saturday, May 4th. We are on track to reach that deadline. Representatives from the Mayor's Office, Superintendent's Office, IAM, and current SBC Chair have conducted interviews of interested applicants. The Mayor's Office is also working with SPS to include a non-voting role for a Somerville High School student. We look forward to presenting the final roster of SBC members as soon as we can confirm applicants' participation.

Somerville Public Schools Construction Advisory Group (CAG) and Broader Community Process

Role

In addition to the SBC, the City is also forming an SPS Construction Advisory Group to advise on the unique opportunity presented by the MSBA to fund one school project that may encompass both the WHCIS and Brown School. The CAG will make a recommendation to the Mayor on a one-or-two-school project and also on potential location.



Status

The Infrastructure and Asset Management department has brought on a community engagement consultant team from the Consensus Building Institute. Their scope includes crafting the composition and call for CAG members with input from stakeholders, working with the CAG throughout their process, as well as shaping and supporting the broader community engagement strategy for this project. We are targeting a call for members for late spring/early summer. The School Committee and other stakeholders can expect outreach to inform this work in the coming weeks. The timing of the CAG is fully integrated with the MSBA timeline and will support the advancement of the MSBA process while in no way creating any delay to the process.