

REPORT OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Abington:

Before the Committee voted to issue their final site recommendation, the Committee organized three informational meetings and invited interested parties and abutters of the Plymouth Street property in order to present the Committee's up-to-date findings and answer neighbor's questions. At these meetings, Assistant Superintendent Peter Schafer provided a detailed description of the process used by the Site Selection Committee to rank the available parcels in Abington for possible school construction. Committee Member Mike Lyons thoroughly explained and presented DEP, environmental and topographical mapping, soil data, and other collected information for the highest ranked sites. Other Site Committee members provided descriptions of qualitative and quantitative information obtained from discussions with Civil Engineer Manny Garcia and Architect Gene Raymond and from the information gathered after the site walks and inspections of the highest ranked properties. A variety of questions from community members were answered about the process, the research, and the conclusions.

CONCLUSION

The Middle School Site Selection Committee has voted unanimously to recommend to the Abington School Committee that the Town of Abington pursue the construction of a new Middle School on the 60+ acre parcel of town-owned land situated on the east side of Plymouth Street (Route 58). Its status as town-owned land, existing access roadways, available utility connections, low site development costs, high quality of subsurface soils suitable for construction, limited wetland areas, and its location in town are all factors which support our recommendation of this site above all other parcels which were considered.

Should the School Committee accept our recommendation and the findings of this report, we would anticipate that a Middle School Building Committee would soon be established to prepare whatever level of design documents would be needed to pursue a state school building construction grant and any necessary future Town Meeting approvals. During that process, more definitive design elements such as the exact location of the school building and its parking lot, the number of stories in the building, the connection points to utility services, the construction of additional sidewalks, traffic studies and traffic mitigation measures, required drainage improvements, and wetland and construction permitting would all be considered and addressed in the months and years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Schafer, *Chairman*

Dan Crane

Jim Coughlin

Michael Donovan

Dori Jamieson

Michael Lyons

Charlie Melchin

Felicia Moschella

Bob Murphy

Ed Putkonen

Jeff Rangel

Shawn Reilly

Patti Vantine

Phil Warren