

W. EDWARD BALMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FEASIBILITY STUDY

DORE & WHITTIER ARCHITECTS

Questions & Answers from Forum #3 – 9/18/2017

Q: Will all areas of the school have access to emergency services?

A: The project site will be designed to allow nearly complete or complete emergency services access all the way around the school building, as well as to the play fields. The Nurse's office will be accessible from all areas of the building and is located close to the gymnasium.

Q: Will the playgrounds and fields be close to the school building?

A: The playgrounds are being designed to be adjacent to the school building. The play fields primarily used by the school, will be adjacent to, or in close proximity to the school building. Play fields near the school will be used by students during the school day, and may be used by town organizations after school.

Q: Will there be two separate playgrounds in the Grades PK-5 option?

A: Yes, there will be two separate playgrounds, one for the younger children in grades PK-2 and the other for children in grades 3-5. Within the younger playground, the playground may be further subdivided between PK-K equipment and grades 1-2 equipment, as space allows.

Q: Will the site plan be designed so students do not have to cross roads and parking lots?

A: The site plan will be designed to minimize or completely eliminate children crossing roads, drives, and parking areas. In some very limited circumstances this may be necessary, and these would only be with an adult accompanying the children.

Q: How do we educate the community on the project cost?

A: The cost estimates have been developed by professional cost estimators, who have a deep database of current Massachusetts school building costs. These cost estimates will be widely publicized on the District website, in public forums, school building committee meetings, and on community access cable.

Q: What is the 5 year Total Cost of Operation of the current and proposed new buildings?

A: The design team is currently estimating the total cost of operation for review by the Committee.

Q: Are there other sources of funding in addition to the MSBA that can be pursued?

A: There are limited other sources of funding outside of the MSBA grant program. One of these is utility incentives from the local electrical and gas (energy) utilities. The project will pursue these incentives as the detailed design work is undertaken.

Q: Are there any additional LEED criteria that have been popular with large corporations?

A: While the LEED criteria being pursued are specific to the Balmer School project, LEED criteria that corporations pursue are similar in nature and would not be additive.