Committee Chair Jim Richards opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. and turned it over to Superintendent Forsten. Superintendent Forsten welcomed everyone and explained the agenda for HMFH Architects. Superintendent Forsten gave an overview of the 60-year-old facility’s current condition and all the work done to date, from interviewing and selecting the architect, to three (4-hour-long) public sessions garnering public opinion on a future middle school. Laura Wernick of HMFH Architects then presented the Board and public with five options to consider. RFS Engineering explained existing challenges with the current middle school, including age, structural and mechanical issues and overall wear and tear on the building over the past 60 years.

HMFH Architects presented details on five options, each of which addressed the three standing variables: whether to move Grade 5 throughout the City to the middle school; whether to partner with the YMCA on the facility; whether to renovate at least part of the existing building. Four of the five options have the new middle school moving to where the building’s existing athletic fields are, on the northwestern part of the school’s parcel. New athletic fields would be built between the new school and Abbot-Downing School.

Jack Dunn provided the audience two sets of cost estimates: one based on current bond rates, assuming no grants, state or federal aid, and calculating projected tax impacts on a $250,000 home. The second set of estimates made the same assumptions, but counted school building aid from the state, which Mr. Dunn emphasized the state had put a moratorium on and likely would not provide. The first set of cost estimates ranged from $74 to $84 million, and the second from $50 to $57 million. The following is a breakdown of the options presented:

**Option 1A – grades 6-8, with Y**: minimal impact to students during construction, good opportunity to increase field space, construction duration of 3 years 4 months, estimated cost $74 million, tax impact of $370.
**Option 1B – grades 6-8, without Y:** best opportunity to increase field space, smallest impact to students during construction, construction duration 3 years 4 months, estimated cost $75 million, tax impact of $375.

**Option 2A – grades 5-8, with Y:** no opportunity to increase field space, moderate impact to students during construction, construction duration 4 years 4 months, estimated cost $84 million, tax impact of $420.

**Option 2B – grades 5-8, without Y:** minimal to no opportunity to increase field space, moderate impact to students during construction, construction duration 3 years 4 months, estimated cost $84 million, tax impact of $420.

**Option 3A – grades 6-8, with Y, partial renovation:** no opportunity to increase field space, severe impact to students during construction, construction duration 4 years 4 months, estimated cost $77 million, tax impact of $387.

Several members of the public asked a number of questions about safety, traffic, cost and other concerns. School Board members and administrators, and HMFH representatives, listened and answered these questions.

*The Committee voted 4-0 to adjourn (motioned by Mr. Richards, seconded by Nathan Fennessey).*

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Richards, *Chair*
Matt Cashman, *Recorder*