Advisory Team – Site, Safety & Security 1

Project Name:	Medford High School	Project Number:	25100
RE:	Advisory Team - Site, Safety & Security	Meeting Date:	12/18/2025
Prepared by:	Helen Fantini	Meeting Number:	1
Distribution:	Attendees		

Owner

- [x] Nicole Branley, *Resident*
- [x] Chief Jack Buckley, *Chief of Police*
- [x] Theresa Carr, *Resident, Transportation Planner*
- [x] Amanda Centrella, *Medford Open Space Planner*
- [ ] Matthew DeMeo
- [x] Chief Todd Evans, *Medford Fire Chief*
- [x] Matt Galusi, *MHS PE Teacher*
- [x] Jenny Graham, *SBC Chair, School Committee Vice Chair*
- [x] Brian Hilliard, *SBC Member, Architect*
- [ ] Joe Hogan, *MHS Student*
- [x] Alicia Hunt, *Director of Planning, Development & Sustainability, Medford*
- [x] Nick Karinge, *Disabilities Director, Medford*
- [x] Ethan Lay-Sleeper, *Architect/Planner*
- [x] Ken Lord, *MPS Chief Operating Officer*
- [x] Sean Mangan, *Director of Operations for Armstrong Ambulance*
- [x] Tim McGivern, *Commissioner of Public Works, Medford*
- [x] John McLaughlin, *MPS Director of Buildings & Grounds*
- [x] John Prestigiovanni, *MHS Sports Coach*
- [x] Melissa Young, *Resident, Cambridge municipal employee*

SMMA & Consultants

- [x] Soala Ajienka, *Architectural Designer*
- [x] Helen Fantini, *Project Manager*
- [x] Erin Prestileo, *Civil Engineer*
- [x] Matt Rice, *Principal-in-Charge, Architect*
- [x] Laura Swan, *Civil Engineer*
- [ ] Kate Tooke, *Landscape Architect, Agency*
- [x] Kazia Rodrigo, *Landscape Designer*, Agency
- [x] Matt Allain, *Security Consultant*, Good Harbor Techmark

Leftfield

- [x] Jen Carlson, *Project Director*
- [ ] Matt Gulino, *Project Manager*

Item No.	Action	Discussion
01.01	Record	Meeting # 1 Agenda - Welcome & introductions - Overview of the Advisory Team process & milestones - Goals & aspirations discussion - listening - Next Steps
01.02	Record	Overview of Advisory Team Process & Milestones - Four Advisory Teams - not individual silos of discussion; all are connected but each team gives space for deeper discussion ○ Each team will produce a set of recommendations for the full SBC to review and approve - Objective of Site, Safety & Security AT: Reviews development of the site design for traffic, circulation, safety and security. Includes conversations about parking, driveways and circulation, fields, and offsite improvements and coordination with City Departments. Overall process: 4 meetings ○ Listen > Review & Respond > Confirm & Recommend > Reconvene

		- Goal is for the new school to open in Fall 2030 - Currently in the "Empathy" and "Define" portion of design thinking
01.03	Record	Goals & Aspirations Discussion • Work with security monitors in the school. Recommends that someone from the CTE side is part of the conversation. • There are some security issues that cannot be discussed in public. This is a historic, difficult site; access and egress. Suggests a need for more than one road. Make sure that the building stairs and doors are named logically. Communications on site are difficult – radios in building do not work well currently. The building is not "easy" to understand it. [The team noted that there will be separate conversations about security]. • Medford Safe Routes member, Walk Medford, etc. Would like to open up the building to Winthrop – it's too far back. Need to encourage less driving – bike to transit. Need sidewalks on both sides of the access road. Likes the permeability to the Fells. CTE aspect is so important – would love to see the students involved in the process and construction. • This is a high school first, but also a community resource. It feels insulated from the neighborhood – not welcoming. Balance welcome with security. How can athletic fields respond to climate (heat). Wants to encourage biking and alternate means of transit. Open campus – how to make sure it is safe but open to public. • Access is a concern – dead end on site is difficult for the fire apparatus. Would like to explore a secondary access, improved fire lanes, hydrant locations with access to athletic fields. Need to see plans to provide more feedback on spaces of higher concern and will provide input on construction phasing. Interest in RTUs and PV – access to the roof and perimeter protections. • Interest a modern, state of the art building. As a 1992 graduate, noted a lot of blind areas in the building that are hard to monitor. Would like to see a flow around the building – the dead end is a real issue. Need emergency egress but acknowledges difficulty. Fells athletics trail – 1 mile – continue to use. Fields – need to make sure there is sufficient parking for athletic events. Loves to see community use, but would like to see that those spaces are sealed off from students / ability to shut it off. Focus on high visibility spaces for collaboration. Can bus drop off area be designated for buses only for better safety? • A place for all modes of transportation to have designated space – can the buses be central and not in conflict with cars? Need for better flow. Is there space for track and field and football field? Field of dreams is deteriorating. Key to the project – maintain and improve the community spaces – pool, theater, playing fields. Space is not maximized. Would love to see view to the city, either from the roof or within the building. Requested more information on artificial turf fields – are they safe? Sees an opportunity to "create space" and give citizens a reason to vote "yes." • Difficult site – flow issues. Public transit is very limited and students have a difficult time getting to the buses on time – would like to see a late bus option. Curious about the phasing. Likes idea of street presence and providing views to the City of Boston. • Constrained site. Could the building be taller/tighter? No ADA access for viewing area for the pool – cannot hold meets here. Speaker's daughter was so worried about getting lost in the high school that she created a model to help understand it. Speaker is actively working on transportation issues – pair with senior citizen needs. Goal is net zero building so assumes there will be solar. • Main issue is accessibility. Speaker did not attend MHS due to accessibility and it is too large. Ramp to main entry is way too steep. Students need to be able to travel through the building – needs to be compact. This is a community building but there is awareness that it is not accessible. • Site planning goals – safe, welcoming, first responders able to effectively manage, access to outdoor learning, clear separation of modes of transport. Room for future additions, logical field layouts, protected crossings, structural integrity, proper drainage, natural surveillance. Safe but not like a fortress. Fewer entries into building, secure main entry, ability to monitor parking areas. Fells access should be primary – safe and visible – gateway to the Fells. More natural hydrology. Site circulation – separation of modes of transport. Well lit, but no light pollution. Segregate public spaces from academics – multi-use. Fully accessible site. CISSA provided advice on his last project – very interested in interior and exterior • Design of circulation and its maintenance is his focus. All lighting to City standards. Erosion control during construction. Notes that Steve Miller Drive is a public road. • Site circulation is a huge issue. Saturday morning is a big issue – circulation and parking. Loves the idea that this is the "flagship" and view to the City of Boston. Domed athletic field? Improved security, better lighting are needed. • Collaboration across departments is critical. Dead end site is a huge concern – has been to MFN at night and it is confusing. Doesn't like feeling stuck on the site. Modern flow is needed. We should be asking for more buses from the MBTA.

01.04	MR	Next Steps - Meeting #2: the design team will speak to the priorities brought up today, as well as: ○ CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) ○ Transparency / views ○ Active security technology ○ Site materiality and permanence ○ Site amenities ○ Circulation (pedestrian/bike/car/bus/service/first responder) ○ Interior connections: Site/Building integration (outdoor learning environments, etc.) ○ Exterior connections: Site integration/connection with the community ○ Construction logistics - SMMA will investigate the possibility for this next meeting to be hybrid.