smma

Advisory Team – Site, Safety & Security 2

Project Name:	Medford High School	Project Number:	25100
RE:	Advisory Team - Site, Safety & Security	Meeting Date:	01/13/2026
Prepared by:	Helen Fantini	Meeting Number:	2
Distribution:	Attendees		

Owner

- [x] Nicole Branley, *Resident*
- [ ] Chief Jack Buckley, *Chief of Police*
- [x] *Marta Cabral, MHS Principal*
- [x] Theresa Carr, *Resident, Transportation Planner*
- [x] Amanda Centrella, *Medford Open Space Planner*
- [x] *Paul Covino, Provisional Police Chief*
- [x] Matthew DeMeo
- [ ] 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*
- [x] 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*
- [ ] 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*
- [ ] Erin Prestileo, *Civil Engineer*
- [x] Matt Rice, *Principal-in-Charge, Architect*
- [x] Laura Swan, *Civil Engineer*
- [x] Kate Tooke, *Landscape Architect, Agency*
- [x] Kazia Rodrigo, *Landscape Designer*, Agency
- [x] Berit Schurke, Landscape Designer, Agency
- [x] Matt Allain, *Security Consultant*, Good Harbor Techmark
- [x] Cody Lattin, Good Harbor Techmark

Leftfield

- [x] Jen Carlson, *Project Director*
- [x] Matt Gulino, *Project Manager*
- [x] *Adele Sands, Education Liasion*

Item No.	Action	Discussion
02.01	Record	Meeting # 2 Agenda - Welcome & Introductions - Topics & Priorities– Takeaways from Meeting #1 - Next Steps
02.02	Record	Topics & Priorities – Takeaways from Meeting #1 1. **Balancing Open Campus & Community Access** CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) was reviewed by Matt Allain. Avoid an institutional feel and adhere to the 5 principals: a. Natural Surveillance b. Natural Access Control c. Territorial Reinforcement d. Maintenance & Visibility e. Activity Support This works best when the design and policies all align. Window security will be considered – will consider use of blinds, security film and impact resistant glazing. Electronics support the goal through use of access control systems. Communications systems will be proposed to allow for required communications from within and outside of the building (athletic fields). Matt Rice noted that there will be separate meetings with first responders as some information

that should not be discussed in public.

Discussion: A participant noted that MHS is not a formal entrance to the Fells – very concerned about safety. However, because people can park at MHS, it is used in that way.

2. **Mobility and Access**
   Kate Tooke reviewed metrics on modes of transportation to the site: car, bike, by foot and bus (school and MBTA). There is only one dedicated school bus route from North Medford. It was noted that some walking routes traverse through the Fells. A large portion of the site is dedicated to parking and circulation. There are 476 spaces. Noted that there are some barriers to those coming on foot from north and west. Traffic consultant will provide a report on parking capacity. Priorities from Meeting 1 include: ease of navigation, safe pedestrian routes, clear emergency access, safe, efficient circulation with clearly separated paths and maintained and clear access to the Fells.

   Discussion: A question was raised about how many students actually walk or bike to school. Kate noted that the data came from a Safe Routes to School survey. Planning office may have additional information and there is a push in the community to increase walking and biking. The Mustang Loop (1 mile) was designed and partly built by students. Any changes to this should be carefully considered – there is "sentimentality." Matt noted that the Principal may be able to gather more current data on walking/biking, inclusive of electric scooters. We could also use better delineation between users of the school bus versus MBTA. Kate noted that more information is needed about why there is not greater use of buses, walking or biking. The design team also needs to understand morning versus afternoon differences. A member noted that there needs to be a focus on sidewalk safety from his perspective as a powerchair user as well as more accessible trails that have proper signage. This may be a challenge given wetlands issues. [*In the chat: Friends of the Fells (Chris Redfern is a contact) may be a good partner/resource to bring into the conversation around any adjustments the further connect the school site and the Fells.]*

3. **Program & Operations**
   Kate noted that this campus is widely used by the public – all ages – the building, fields, pool, Fells. Athletic fields also occupy a large percentage of the site. Recent plans indicate there is a desire to diversify uses on the site. Feedback from Meeting 1 included: more educational uses with the Fells/outdoors such as an outdoor lab for CTE and science, a dedicated outdoor classroom, ability to host more community events, being a regional hub for learning, prioritizing climate resilience and positioning active recreation away from ecologically sensitive areas.

   Discussion:
   Athletic Fields: There is a desire to include football and track on the site – would like to see exploration of bringing these fields onto the site. Baseball and softball is also played off site. It would be great to grow athletics by having fields on site – this is an equity issue for those students that do not have transport to off-site fields. Softball is located in south Medford – distant from the school. Kate noted that it would be helpful to have a conversation with Athletics to understand which sports can share fields.
   Gardens for Food Production: A desire to grow food was expressed – edible landscapes. Matt Rice noted that this can be challenging when prime growing season is when the school is not occupied, but this can be dealt with by not segregating gardens in interior courtyards.
   Street Presence: A question arose about what options there might be to increase presence of the school as viewed by Winthrop Street.
   Educational Site Signage: Someone noted that including interpretive signage on the site to highlight design and sustainability aspects.

4. **Physical Site**
   Kate noted that Advisory Team members expressed a lot of love for the Fells. It is a rich, diverse environment with many opportunities to learn about environmental stewardship. The high school site has really been carved out of the Fells. There are visible bedrock outcroppings, and 54% of the site is impermeable. Building was placed on plateau – a big land shaping move – and there are stormwater management challenges. Priorities include designing with the site, providing a band of protected open space, restoring natural hydrology and stewardship, shared with the Friends of the Fells, City, District and students.

   Discussion: A team member wanted to ensure that the design team was aware of flooding issues that have been problems in the past. It is important to make sure that outdoor classrooms are universally designed. A member expressed Interest in adding a mountain bike pump track.

5. **Construction Site Safety**
   Laura noted that there will be many measures to keep the school and construction activities get underway: fending, scaffolding for roof access, emergency vehicle pathways, clear signage. Logistics will be developed once an option is selected. Matt Rice noted that a Construction Manager at Risk will be the one to develop a logistics plan.

   Discussion: A question was raised about where construction workers will park. Matt Rice acknowledged that construction will need to happen when school is in session. Accessibility and emergency egress must be maintained throughout construction. A question was raised regarding

		where students will have classes during construction. Matt Rice responded that this will depend on which option is pursued and that it is too soon to tell.
02.03	SMMA	Next Steps **Meeting 3**: The Advisory Team will review recommendations as to what type Site, Safety & Security design elements to include in the project (which were discussed in Meetings 1 and 2). Scope items will be characterized as givens, items warranting team discussion, or items that are not recommended for inclusion in the project ("traffic light" categorization: green, yellow, red). The design team will be looking for consensus on these items. **Next Meeting:** March 11th at 5:30 pm, Remote / Hybrid