

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Committee Center Building Committee, which reports to the Board of Selectmen, is composed of seven members, each serving an undefined term. The Committee is responsible for finding the best use possible for the Pompositicut School Building after the Nashoba Regional School District has vacated the building.

After gathering information by utilizing on-line surveys, newspapers, public forums and interviewing those departments, groups and businesses that are interested in space at the Pompositicut building we have confirmed that there is a great need in the town for a community center. It is our mission to be sure that everyone is heard and we deliver an accurate and well-planned idea for the building.

On November 22, 2011 the Board of Selectmen voted to extend the charge and terms of the former Pompo Use Study Committee, so that it can continue its work, by creating a new Community Center Building Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Bolton
Michael Busch
Paul Chaisson
Ann Deluty
Charles Kern

James Sauta, Chair
Gus Stathis

Elizabeth Tobey, Secretary

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Elementary School Building Committee was formed following the 2007 Annual Town Meeting, to direct and oversee the renovation and addition to the Center School. 2012 saw the school finally open and the project very close to completion.

Phase One (the new part of the building) was supposed to have been completed by December 2011, but was delayed, and students were not able to move in until February 2012. This changed the plan significantly, as it meant we had grades K-3 all at Pompo for the entire school year 2011-12. But it was still an exciting day when the 4th and 5th graders moved into the new building and work began on the “original” Center School.

There were of course surprises in the second phase: asbestos we had not anticipated, a slab flooring that wasn't level, walls that had to come down when we had thought they could stay, no footings at all where the old kitchen had been, requiring a wall to be created---in fact, we pretty much got a new building in Phase 2, hardly a renovation. But

by June, it was looking like it would be done in time for school opening in September. Only one more surprise: the bonding company fired our contractor, PJ Stella, with only 3 months to go till opening! Luckily, they moved quickly to replace Stella with Brait Builders, who jumped in promptly to keep things moving along.

It was a tense few months, but with incredible determination and coordination of Brait, our architect and project manager and scrupulous attention to detail by our Clerk of the Works, Glenn Davis, we did it, and school opened for all grades K-5 on September 4, 2012. It was quite a day when Principal LaCoste could address his entire student body and staff sitting in one room! The new Cafeteria/Gym space was gorgeous! We welcomed the entire community to the Ribbon Cutting celebration on September 22. MSBA Executive Director Jack McCarthy, State Senator Jamie Eldridge, State Representative Kate Hogan joined residents, staff and students in a celebration of a project that took years and many, many people to complete. Special awards were given to Greta Morgan, chair of the RECESS fundraising committee, Glenn Davis, our Clerk extraordinaire, and Bill Byron, our Unsung Hero, for attending nearly every one of our meetings as a concerned citizen.



“Unsung Hero” Bill Byron receiving award from ESBC co-chair Ellen Sturgis
Photo by Paul Trunfio

Though school was now in session, there was still work being done after school and on nights and weekends to finish up the final work. The ESBC continued to meet monthly to monitor the progress of the punch list, and the project close-out process. Though not an ESBC responsibility, Pompositticut School was closed, with the Town Clerk organizing a furniture sale that cleaned out the last of the old equipment.

Meetings will continue while we wait for negotiations on the close-out to be completed with the Contractor, Bonding Company and Town. We anticipate a final financial report will be presented at Annual Town Meeting in May. Currently, we estimate the final cost

of the project to be **\$31.2 million**, of which approximately **\$16 million** will be paid by the MSBA. This will include an estimated \$300,000 in additional funding due to our successful fundraising which in itself offset the cost to taxpayers by \$342,000. The Town had voted \$37.8 million in 2009; we are happy to report that through tight supervision (we still have \$1.4 million in contingency funds unspent), negotiations and a soft economy, we were able to reduce the cost to the taxpayers by nearly **\$6 million**, and still produce a school and a community resource of which we can all be very proud. This process has encompassed not only the six years of the ESBC, but the intensive work of the School Building Task Force, and several committees before that. We appreciate the support of the entire community in coming to agreement and supporting the creation of a tremendous school. A final thanks to our project managers CMS, and to Symmes Maini McKee Architects, for being great partners.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Bernklow, Finance
Lynn Colletti, School Committee
Amy Finkel Hastings, Co-Chair;
Architect
Charles Kern, Selectman
Craig Martin, Building Commissioner
Stephen Quinn, Planning Board

Ellen S. Sturgis, Co-Chair
Michael Wood, Superintendent
Kevin LaCoste, Ex-officio; Principal

Lisa D'Alessio, Associate
David Korn, Associate



“Opening Day” at Center School, September 2012 *Photo by Ellen Sturgis*