

Madison Park Working Group

March 11, 2025

Attendees:

- Paul Neal, Head of School
- Perino Watson, MP CTE Director
- Brian Harris, MP Hospitality Instructor, SSC Member, BTU rep
- Joe DeVeau, MP Building/Property Maintenance Instructor
- Michael Norris, MP Co-op Coordinator
- Lovette Harris, Head of MP School Parent Council
- Shailah Stewart, Career Champions Network
- Settenah Wright, Head of MP Cardinal Association
- Judith Baker, Friends of Madison Park
- Coach Dennis Wilson, Friends of Madison Park
- Louis Elisa, Friends of Madison Park
- Barbara Fields, Friends of Madison Park
- Bobby Jenkins, MP Alumni Association
- Dion Irish, Chief of Operations
- Patricia Cafferky, Deputy Chief of Operations
- Tali Robbins, Deputy Chief of Policy, Mayor's Office
- Lou Mandarin, Senior Advisor on Labor, Mayor's Office
- Meghan Schroeder, BPS Capital Planning Project Manager
- Susana Hernandez Morgan, BPS Capital Planning
- Gaelle Nelfise, Policy Assistant, Mayor's Office
- Anshi Moreno Jimenez, Senior Policy Advisor, Mayor's Office
- Jim Caradonio, Advisor to BPS/COB

Agenda

Welcome & Introductions (20 mins)

- **Purpose – Chief Dion Irish**
 - Purpose: Establish one collaborative working group of key Madison Park community members to support the Madison Park Redesign Project and engage in collective problem-solving for the school's future.

- Group resources: A [shared Google Drive folder](#) will house all essential materials.
- **Introductions & Group Norms – Chief Dion Irish**
 - Brief individual introductions: Name and affiliation with MP
 - Group Norms:
 - Respect
 - Equal and equitable voice. Ensure everyone at the table has space to be heard.
 - Assume we all want what is best for our students.
 - Open with empathy.
 - Ground statements in evidence.
 - Be present.
 - [Send agenda ahead of time](#)

MSBA Statement of Interest/SOI (60 mins)

- Overview & Timeline for SOI submission – Tali Robbins
 - [The SOI does not currently specify whether the project involves renovating the existing building or constructing a new one. That decision will be made at a later stage.](#)
 - [Regardless of the state's decision, the school should not delay introducing new programs until renovations are underway.](#)
 - [Existing programs should continue receiving support, including active recruitment of 8th-grade students.](#)
 - [The City and BPS has already been working on pushing shorter term initiatives that help existing programs and current students](#)
 - [Once SOI is submitted, future meetings will focus on short-term priorities, such as expanding co-op opportunities.](#)
 - [Explore ways to incorporate emerging partnerships with city agencies or others, such as ISD, into the SOI application?](#)
 - [Consider leveraging city resources for specific programs, such as city auto fleet maintenance.](#)
 - [Establishing strong co-op and job opportunities at Madison Park would set it apart from other schools in the city, creating a cultural shift as students recognize and discuss these career pathways.](#)

- Also: Explore potential partnerships with Massachusetts state agencies, such as the Department of Transportation (DOT), to create additional co-op and workforce development opportunities.
- The SOI should emphasize the importance of co-op opportunities

Specific Section Review & Feedback:

- General Description – Brief history of the building, current programming, and space offerings.
- Priority 4: Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments.
 - Enrollment has steadily increased over the past few years.
 - MP's enrollment is slowly increasing, with a waitlist for 10th grade last year.
 - 13% of new students at MP this past year transferred from charter schools.
 - Mayor Wu has described Madison Park as a “workforce hub”, which should be incorporated into the SOI to reinforce MP's role in the local economy.
 - Southeast Regional Vocational School has a separate adult education program, allowing instructors to maintain dedicated spaces without interference from day-to-day student use.
 - Adult education serves as an important revenue stream and has its own student demand.
 - Some students leave BPS for vocational programs not offered at MP, though this primarily applies to agriculture programs
 - At other schools, CTE programs have limited facilities and fewer co-op opportunities than at MP. Need to communicate how Ch. 74 programs are distinct (# of hours) and how Ch. 74 programs at Madison are particularly high-quality (week on, week off schedule, etc.)
 - BPS should carefully consider where Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs are housed.
 - If BPS is consolidating schools, vocational programs should be centralized at MP rather than scattered across multiple schools.

- FOMP has long advocated for MP to be the district's primary vocational hub.
- *Priority 5: Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility.*
 - Instead of listing issues by shop, they have been grouped into broader facility-related themes.
 - This section captures firsthand accounts from staff about ongoing challenges
 - Specific Facility Issues to Highlight:
 - Electricity Shop:
 - The lab spaces were not designed with diverse learning needs in mind, especially for students with IEPs.
 - More space and better configuration would allow students to display projects and return to them as needed.
 - Other Safety & Infrastructure Concerns:
 - Severe leaks lead to standing water indoors after rain.
 - Ceiling tiles are falling, presenting a safety hazard.
 - Exposed electrical receptacles pose safety risks.
 - Flashing lights in certain shops could trigger epileptic seizures.
 - Tech & ISSN Labs face major disruptions when leaks damage computers and equipment, forcing students to work in substandard conditions.
 - Wi-Fi & IT Infrastructure:
 - A separate Wi-Fi strength section should be included.
 - Updates from BPS IT:
 - 77 new network switches were installed last year to improve coverage.
 - However, slowdown zones still exist and need further identification & upgrades.
 - Best vocational schools have a dedicated IT help desk where students can work on school-wide IT issues as part of their learning.
 - No vocational program at MP can function effectively without strong, high-speed Wi-Fi.
 - The current building materials do not allow for high-speed connectivity, and retrofitting is not a viable solution.

- **Safety & Maintenance Documentation:**
 - MP's School Safety Team maintains a list of facility issues by shop, which should be incorporated into the SOI.
 - Use data from the educational study published two years ago to support these claims.
 - **Green Energy & Water Quality Considerations:**
 - The school's roof could support significant solar panel installations
 - Water Quality:
 - Many drinking fountains are unusable due to plumbing issues.
 - Separate plumbing concerns from drinking water quality issues to better clarify the problem.
- *Priority 7: Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements.*
 - The MP Clean Energy Task Force has worked on renewable energy education initiatives, which should be better supported in a new facility.
 - Emphasize how additional space will create new opportunities, such as mentorship programs with the Roxbury community.
 - Highlight the introduction of new programs like aviation elective while distinguishing them from existing or proposed Chapter 74 programs, as their space needs differ significantly.
 - Facilities for electricity and other shops are substandard, and the deficiencies are not yet fully detailed in the SOI.
 - More examples need to be added to strengthen this section. Describe deficiencies with facilities for existing programs, not just for offering new/expanded programs.
- **Closing and Next Steps (10 mins)**
 - Next meeting: Review updated SOI
 - **Further Review of the SOI Draft:**
 - Written feedback should be sent to Meghan Schroeder at mschroeder@bostonpublicschools.org BY MARCH 24
 - Keep in mind: This document is not the final plan for MP.

- FYI: The School Committee and City Council vote on authorizing submission.
- **Application Submission Timeline:**
 - The SOI is due April 11 (internal deadline of April 4)
 - The group will meet at the beginning of April before submission to finalize details.
 - In-person meeting preferred, starting between 4-6 PM, as educators are available until 5 PM on Tuesdays. Meghan will confirm date and time
 - Would prefer to keep the group close to the size it is