

3.3.5 LOCAL ACTIONS AND APPROVAL CERTIFICATION

- D. SBC and Public Meeting
Minutes

City Of Worcester
DOHERTY MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT

PUBLIC MEETING / SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
December 9, 2019 - 6:30-8:00 PM

The following Agenda items were presented and discussed;

- **Introduction:** Russ Adams (CoW) welcomed all attendees and thanked everyone for coming. He introduced the Steering Committee and noted that the School Building Committee would be meeting again on December 18, 2019 to vote on the Preferred Schematic Report (PSR). He introduced Katie Crockett (LPA) to start the presentation.
- **PSR Presentation:** Katie said this presentation is a review of the progress thus far on the PSR portion of the project. The PSR is scheduled to be submitted to the MSBA in December. The project team would then continue work on the Schematic Design which is anticipated to be completed in the summer of 2020. Early construction is scheduled to start in the summer of 2021. She said the team reviewed five options required by the MSBA which include Code Upgrade, Add/Reno, New Construction at Doherty site, Foley Stadium site and Chandler Magnet site plus added land. Work included gathering information on each site, traffic patterns, surveys and budgets that were all used in the analysis for the PSR. The Steering committee has recommended construction on the existing Doherty site for the Preferred solution.
- The project team was tasked to look at various concerns such as construction impact on students, Athletic fields, use of Park lands, existing school use and land acquisition to name a few. The enrollment for the new school is going to be 1,670 students and will include an Advanced Academy and four Chapter 74 programs. We anticipate a 420,000 SF school which is more than double in size of the existing building.
- A perfect 26-acre flat site would be ideal, unfortunately there are none available in the City. We will continue to review parking requirements during the Schematic Design process. In addition to the three sites under consideration, we also reviewed adjacent city property and parks to possibly help augment the athletic program.
- The three options at the existing Doherty site on Highland Street include new construction which will not cause any disruption of the existing Park, puts the playing field on the surface, proposed parking under a portion of the building, designed to step into the site and is considerably lower than the summit of Newton Hill. Katie also stated that none of the existing paths or disc golf at the Park are impacted. The Code upgrade process is a benchmark requirement from the MSBA and would be very expensive, would not meet the program and requires temporary classrooms. The Add/Reno is an inefficient plan, similar in cost to new construction and requires parking under the playing field. Katie introduced Rob Para of LPA to discuss phasing.

- **Phasing Complexities:** Rob stated the construction on the existing Doherty site would be a phased process while the students remain in session throughout construction. Early site work is anticipated to start in the summer of 2021. The construction fencing of the new site area would be first and then the added paving around the existing school to generate temporary parking during construction. The introduction of a CM at Risk Contractor early in the project of this type is beneficial to help with logistics, black out delivery schedules to avoid impact on the students while in school. The first phase would be the completion of the new school, demolition of the existing school building and construct partial parking for a fall 2024 occupancy. The second phase would be completion of all parking, landscaping and athletic fields. The use of vegetated retaining walls is proposed and trees along Highland Street that come down could be replicated during the landscaping phase.
- Foley Stadium site is located on an old swamp site and the stadium was built in the 1920's. The soils are very poor and not advantageous for building construction requiring piles to support the new school. The area is a dense neighborhood setting and the fields are highly utilized by the whole district. Beaver Brook Park across the street is also in a flood plain. Those fields were reorganized in 2006 to help avoid flooding impacts and the area is best used for fields only.
- Chandler Magnet is located on a 22-acre site, the school was built in the 1950's for 900 students and needs approximately \$7million in repairs. Located across the street from WSU and a new school on the site would be a 4-story building. In order to use this site, land would be required from WSU and the abutting residents. There was also no other facility in the city to relocate the entire school population which is approximately 500 students.
- **Site Rankings:** Katie explained that the Foley Stadium and Chandler Magnet were functioning facilities and there are no current capital plans in the City to replace them. A scoring system was generated to help rank the sites and a perfect score would be 185. The least favorable option was the Code Upgrade with a score of 85 and the Doherty site ranked best at 143 which is the site chosen for the PSR. The cost estimates prepared by both Tishman and LPA confirm a total project budget of approximately \$300 million. Katie also mentioned that other off-site options of school lands or city owned land and parks (subject to Article 97) were considered and Rob will present those options.

- **Doherty Off Site Options:** Rob stated that none of the sites provide all the fields desired for the project. The Duffy Field is an existing field and upgrades to make the area a replacement practice field before construction starts would be ideal. The improvements to trails at the Newton Hill were budgeted, the proposed new trail from the school down to the trail to Pleasant Street was not looked on favorably, but other possible improvements to pathways and upgrade to existing tennis courts could be considered. Foley Stadium improvements are to provide better access and possible upgrades to playing fields. Beaver Brook Park is in a flood plain and possible installation of new underdrains to make the fields more usable would help. Park Ave site could possibly accommodate a new Stadium. This would require raised fields, water retention system and a 1,500-seat stadium with restrooms and lockers. Estimated budget \$30-40 million plus land. Chandler site is under utilized and excavating into the existing hill could provide area for a baseball field and two flat grass practice fields. Estimated budget of \$6 million.

Questions/ Answers: Katie said that all the off-site options would not be reimbursable by MSBA and funded as City improvements. She noted that these off-site upgrades are to enhance the options for the new school non-reimbursable and at this point very difficult to establish the MSBA reimbursement rate which is possibly 50/50 for on-site projects. Temporary off-site parking is also being reviewed and she opened the presentation for questions.

Questions from School Building Committee members:

- How much of the existing park land at Doherty will be used? Zero, no park land lost.
- Is there any legal way to ensure students remain at the existing school during construction? - No student relocation is planned. Contract documents will be clear.
- How is demolition and abatement handled? There is partial reimbursement by the MSBA for these.
- Is it possible to ask the Athletic Director questions regarding field usage?
- Can we consider a swimming pool? The MSBA does not allow this for their projects.
- Any options to widen Highland Street? We are looking at traffic impacts. Possible drop off area in front, but we cannot encroach on Park land at each end of the site.

Questions from General Public:

- Park was to be a Park and now is a school.
- 400 cars, what about the buses? Anticipate 8-10 buses for off street drop off.
- District athletics disrupted by Colleges. Schedules overlap and current arrangement is insufficient.
- Residents should make decisions not those living out of the City. School Building Committee has affiliation with the school and MSBA provides input on member requirements.
- Boys and Girls club in the City has a swimming pool.

Questions from General Public (continued):

- Foley stadium is a shared facility and would need to be replaced. Project team was tasked to investigate the areas in the Doherty quadrant.
- How much parking is there at Doherty? Approximately 250 marked spaces, though there is much more actual cars on the site.
- The Doherty site is small and does not provide adequate fields. Is there a firm commitment from the City to move on some of the off-site schemes?
- No student parking on site during construction, they will need to walk to the off-site athletic fields.
- Where will the construction workers park? That is coordinated by the contractor.
- What is the cost to upgrade the fields behind Foley stadium? Will need to develop those costs.
- What is the visual impact on Park Street with the new school? Park Street is a lower elevation which will minimize the view.
- If new fields are at Chandler how will the schedule work for using them? Need to look closely at this issue if pursued.
- Is the building LEED? Yes it will be Silver at a minimum, also additional wall and roof insulation plus high efficient windows.
- What is happening on Dec 18th? The School Building Committee will vote on the Preferred solution. Then work will start on the Schematic design.
- How can we comment on the project? LPA has a website www.lpaa.com/get-in-touch where you can put comments.
- Is it possible to complete improvements to the Elm Park.

CLOSING:

Russ Adams thanked everyone for coming and the meeting ended at 8:00PM.

3.3.5 LOCAL ACTIONS AND APPROVAL CERTIFICATION

E. Press & Media Coverage

5 site options advanced for new Doherty High in Worcester

By Scott O'Connell

Telegram & Gazette Staff

Posted Sep 9, 2019 at 9:46 PM

WORCESTER - The building committee overseeing the upcoming update of Doherty Memorial High School unanimously opted to go forward with five construction options for further study in a much anticipated vote at the school Monday evening.

Those options include the three required by the state's school building authority, which is poised to fund a large portion of the project: a code upgrade of the current high school, more extensive renovations of the building, and a full rebuild at the existing Highland Street site.

In addition, the consultants who have been working on the feasibility study for the project have recommended two potential relocation options: one that would send Doherty to the current Foley Stadium site on Chandler Street, and another that would have the new high school replace the existing Chandler Magnet School farther north on Chandler Street, across from Worcester State University.

That final option would require the city to purchase a small portion of land bordering the Chandler Magnet site owned by a university foundation. The project planners on Monday night threw out a previous version of that plan that would have attempted to fit the school on the existing city-owned land.

Under the plan approved by the Doherty building committee, the city's consultant, Lamoureux Pagano Associates, and Worcester officials would continue to study those five options with the aim of choosing a final "preferred solution" in December to submit to the school building authority.

If approved, that recommendation would lead to the development of a detailed design for the next Doherty, and finally construction, with the tentative goal to open the new school in the fall of 2024.

Lamoureux Pagano President Katie Crockett said all five options have drawbacks, and the decision on Monday night to continue studying them, rather than narrow down the list, will give project planners more time to investigate them.

“Our intent is to take a really deep look at how the program could fit in a site that we know is undersized,” she said, alluding to the realization during the feasibility study that Worcester doesn’t have a location for Doherty that completely provides the space needed for it.

At Monday night’s meeting, which drew hundreds of parents and other residents to the current Doherty’s cafeteria, there was still skepticism toward the plan so far, particularly the idea of getting rid of Chandler Magnet to support the new high school. Project planners have said Chandler Magnet’s students and special programs – the school is home to a dual language program – would be transferred to other schools in the city as part of that option, but several parents opposed the plan.

City Councilor Morris Bergman, who also sits on the building committee, wondered how the city could develop a plan at the Chandler Magnet site without actually owning the needed land. Worcester State and its foundation indicated two weeks ago the properties in question are not for sale.

“It seems kind of odd, we’re putting something forward with land we don’t even own yet ... we don’t know if we’ll ever own it,” he said.

Some parents also questioned the size projections for the new Doherty, which would be 420,000 square feet – around double the current school’s size – and cast doubt on projections that the local student population would increase enough to necessitate those dimensions.

Costwise, there would be little difference among the three rebuild options, according to projections shared at Monday's meeting: Building at the current site would come in between \$302 million and \$305 million, it would cost between \$300 million and \$302 million to build at the Foley site, and the relocation to Chandler Magnet would cost between \$277 million and \$280 million, although those last two estimates don't include required land acquisition.

The code upgrade and renovation options would cost \$101 million to \$104 million and \$287 million to \$290 million respectively, but project planners have focused more on the rebuild options, based on the limitations of the existing school building and site.

If the project does advance as a full rebuild, those cost estimates would eclipse the cost of the city's current major school building project, the replacement of South High Community School, which is coming in at \$209 million.



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Woman fatally shot on Oread St.

Suspect captured, charged with manslaughter
 By George Barnes
 Telegram & Gazette Staff

WORCESTER - A 21-year-old woman was shot dead Tuesday morning on Oread Street and a 37-year-old man was arrested on a manslaughter charge, police said.

Police identified the victim as Suleil Ortiz.

Djarril Irving, 37, was captured after police were granted an arrest warrant charging him with manslaughter in

connection with the death, as well as carrying a firearm without a license and unlawful possession of ammunition, Worcester police said. The police report in Central District Court indicated the woman was shot once in the chest, Sgt. Sean Murtha said.

Police officers found the victim about 1:15 a.m. Tuesday in an apartment at 15 Oread St. She was suffering from a gunshot wound and was rushed to a hospital, where she was pronounced dead, police said.

Scanner transmissions indicated the woman's sister called police and told them Ortiz, who was pregnant,

had been shot inside an apartment. Police went to the address, found the victim and performed CPR on her before an ambulance arrived.

During the morning, police investigators were seen bringing what appeared to be bags of evidence out of the brick, two-story Victorian apartment building.

Pamela Williams, who lives across Oread Street from the building where the shooting took place, said she woke up when police arrived and saw police cars filling the street. Officers could be

See SHOOTING, A5



Worcester police crime scene investigators leave 15 Oread St. Tuesday morning. [T&G STAFF/RICK CINLAIR]

Left 'with no choice'

Democrats unveil impeachment charges against Trump
 By Lisa Mascaro and Mary Clare Jalonick
 The Associated Press



WASHINGTON - House Democrats announced two articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump on Tuesday, declaring he "betrayed the nation" with his actions toward Ukraine as they pushed toward historic proceedings that are certain to help define his presidency and shape the 2020 election.

The specific charges aimed at removing the 45th president of the U.S.: Abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi, flanked by the chairmen of impeachment inquiry committees at the U.S. Capitol, said they were upholding their solemn oath to defend the Constitution. Trump responded angrily on Twitter: "WATCH HUNT!"

Voting is expected in a matter of days by the Judiciary Committee, which begins deliberations Wednesday, and by Christmas in the full House. The charges, if approved, would then be sent to the Senate, where the Republican majority would be unlikely to convict Trump, but not without

From left, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., House Financial Services Committee Chairwoman Maxine Waters, D-Calif., House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., House Committee on Oversight and Reform Chair Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal, D-Mass., and House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., announce they are pushing ahead with two articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump Tuesday at the Capitol in Washington. [THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

a potentially bitter trial just as voters in Iowa and other early presidential primary states begin making their choices.

In the formal articles announced Tuesday, the Democrats said Trump enlisted a foreign power in "corrupting" the U.S. election process and endangered national security by asking Ukraine to investigate his

political rivals, including Democrat Joe Biden, while withholding U.S. military aid as leverage.

See IMPEACH, A3

Goodbye, Columbus? Not in Worcester

City Council approves petition to retain holiday
 By Nick Kotsopoulos
 Telegram & Gazette Staff

WORCESTER - Columbus Day is going to remain a holiday in the city, celebrated on the second Monday in October as it always has been.

The City Council Tuesday night unanimously voted to reaffirm the city's commitment and participation in the celebration of Columbus Day as a holiday, six weeks after it had been asked by a resident to abolish Columbus Day and replace it with Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Maria Stella Fiore of 24 Amanola Ave. petitioned the council, asking it keep the Columbus Day holiday as it is. She said she filed the petition on behalf of the entire Italian American community in Worcester.

Speaking in support of the petition, Carmelita Bello of 4 Cheyenne Road said Columbus Day is a national and state holiday and has come to epitomize the contributions of all those of Italian heritage and descent.

See COUNCIL, A5

Vote on new Doherty site up next week

Building next to Highland St. school could run close to \$300M
 By Scott O'Connell
 Telegram & Gazette Staff

WORCESTER - A local committee is set to decide at a meeting next week where to put the city's new Doherty Memorial High School, with the front-runner being a plan to keep the building at its current location.

At a meeting Monday, architects and city officials working on the project reiterated their stance that keeping the school at its current site on Highland Street remains the best of a relatively ideal set of options. That plan would also be the most expensive building, coming in at an estimated \$292 million to \$294 million project budget.

The next best option, at a projected \$266 million to \$269 million cost, would be to move Doherty to the current site of the city's Chandler Magnet School, whose students would have to be dispersed to make way for the project. That approach would also require the city to purchase abutting land to fit the new high school.

See DOHERTY, A4



Doherty Memorial High School in Worcester. [FILE PHOTO/MATT WRIGHT]



NEWS | A3
WELCOME TO 'TOP 4,' RICKY DURAN
 Grafton native advances to finals in 'The Voice'

Bloomberg at climate talks: Count on US

Candidate vows UN to rejoin Paris accord if elected

By Frank Jordans and Aritz Parra
The Associated Press

MADRID — New York billionaire and presidential candidate Michael Bloomberg led a high-powered charge against President Donald Trump's climate policies Tuesday, assuring activists, scientists and politicians from around the world that Americans are committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions "even with a climate change denier in the White House."

Bloomberg, who launched his 2020 campaign less than three weeks ago, spoke during a trip to the U.N. global climate conference in Madrid, even as the official U.S. delegation at a booth nearby kept a low profile.

Together with former Secretary of State John Kerry and former Vice President Al Gore, Bloomberg constituted a sort of shadow delegation at a time when Trump is moving to pull the United States out of the 2015 Paris climate accord.

As other Democratic candidates have done, Bloomberg vowed to immediately rejoin the pact if elected president. "The first thing you do, Day One, is you say we're going back in," he said. "That's a no-brainer."

The former New York mayor has helped support and fund a private push to get U.S. states, cities and businesses to abide by the terms of the Paris

accord. He touted a report that said nonfossil fuel actors representing more than two-thirds of the U.S. economy are on course to cut the nation's emissions 37% by 2030 compared with 2007 levels. If the next administration joins in, that figure could rise to 49%, bringing the U.S. roughly in line with the Paris treaty, according to the report. "Americans are willing to continue to work, even with a climate change denier in the White House," the 77-year-old businessman told a packed room.

The U.S. remains a party to the climate pact until Nov. 4, 2020 — the day after the U.S. presidential election.

Bloomberg, who has made climate change a central pillar of his bid for the nomination, also called for an end to U.S. subsidies and tax breaks for fossil fuels, which are one of the main sources of greenhouse gases.

Scientists say their use needs to end by the middle of the century if average temperatures on Earth are to rise no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) by 2100, the target set in the Paris agreement.

By taking aim at fossil fuel subsidies, Bloomberg is challenging both a powerful American industry and Trump, who has championed the extraction of oil, gas and coal.

According to a report by the International Monetary Fund, fossil fuel subsidies in the U.S. amounted to \$649 billion in 2015. Only China spent more tax money — \$1.4 trillion — to

keep fossil fuel prices low that year.

The IMF report calculated that if prices for fossil fuels reflected their true cost, including the environmental damage they cause, consumption would drop so much that global carbon emissions would be 28% lower.

Bloomberg has long been an advocate of international efforts to curb global warming and until recently was the U.N.'s envoy for climate action. After the Trump administration stopped paying U.S. dues to the global body's climate office, Bloomberg's philanthropic organization stepped in to foot the bill. But his attendance at this year's summit stands out because of his presidential ambitions.

The Trump administration sent a low-level delegation to the talks, led by a career diplomat, Marcia Bernicat, former U.S. ambassador to Bangladesh.

Other prominent Americans attending the 12-day conference include Gore and Kerry, who said the absence of any high-profile representative from the White House at the talks "speaks for itself."

"It's an absence of leadership," Kerry said. "It's a tragedy."

Kerry, who as America's top diplomat at the time was key to negotiating the Paris accord, called on citizens to hold business and political leaders accountable in the fight against climate change.

Germany's environment minister, Svenja Schulze, welcomed the presence of rival American delegations.



Democratic presidential contender Michael Bloomberg gives a speech at the US Climate action center during the COP25 summit Tuesday in Madrid. (THE ASSOCIATED PRESS)

"We should keep showing that it's not just Trump, but that there is a lot happening in the United States on the issue of emissions reduction and climate action," she said.

One climate policy expert questioned the narrow focus of Bloomberg's report, however.

"The Paris agreement isn't only about reducing emissions," said Kevin M. Adams, a research fellow at the Stockholm Environment Institute. "It is also about managing the risks of living in a warming world, including the impacts we are already experiencing today, and providing finance to developing countries who have contributed so little to the problem but will be affected first and

worst by climate change." The talks in Madrid shifted into higher gear Tuesday as ministers arrived to tackle some of the thorny political issues still on the table.

Despite growing awareness of climate change and warnings from scientists that drastic action is needed, only a few countries sent their prime ministers or presidents to negotiate, worrying some observers.

"It shows that there has not yet been an internalization of the emergency situation that we are in, that so few heads of state are coming to Madrid and ready to roll up their sleeves and do what it takes to actually respond to the science," said Jennifer

Morgan, executive director of Greenpeace International.

Environmental activists are hoping the European Union will present an ambitious plan Wednesday on cutting emissions that will send a message of hope. Climate change has become a growing political issue in Europe, with mass protests by young people such as Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, who is delivering a speech at the U.N. gathering on Wednesday.

American actor Harrison Ford said it is time to listen to those "who will inherit what we have wrought."

"Their future has already been diminished by our past," he said at an event alongside Bloomberg.

DOHERTY

From Page A1

The third and lowest-graded proposal is to relocate the high

school to the Foley Stadium site on Chandler Street, which would cost \$286 million to \$289 million. Compared to the other options, however, that plan would carry much more additional cost to the city — \$50 million

to \$60 million, as opposed to \$6 million to \$12 million for the other two proposals — and would eliminate a valuable recreational resource for the city.

The building committee overseeing the planning

process for the new school is scheduled to pick from those choices at a meeting on Dec. 18. Their selection will then be submitted for approval to the state's School Building Authority, which is on-board to fund the majority of the project cost.

The new high school is tentatively slated to be ready to open by the fall of 2024.

"I think it will be an unbelievable school," said Superintendent Maureen Binienda. A member on the building committee, Binienda agreed with the idea of staying on Highland Street. "I think it's the best solution, although I'm only one vote."

The placement of Doherty has been the main sticking point so far in the early planning process for the new school, with various groups raising concerns about each

of the proposals. Advocates for Elm Park, for instance, have sought assurance the project will not encroach on the Newton Hill section of the park, which is right next to the school.

Parents with children at Chandler Magnet, meanwhile, have opposed the plan to tear down their school and break up its students, who would have to be sent to separate schools. Binienda said a recent study of the district's options determined the elementary school's population, which is part of a special bilingual program at the school, could not be all moved to another building in the city.

Getting rid of Foley Stadium would also create a "monumental task" on top of building the high school itself, said K. Russell Adams, assistant commissioner of the city's Department of Public Works

& Parks, since the city would have to quickly find an alternative facility to replace Foley, which the city schools depend upon as a primary athletic field.

"In a nutshell, in all three (options) we can build a building that meets the educational program" needs of the envisioned new Doherty, he said, but sticking at Highland Street presents the least impactful downside.

If approved by the MSBA following next week's vote, the project would then move into the schematic design phase. In that stage, city officials and architects working on the undertaking would flesh out the design of the new school.

Scott O'Connell can be reached at Scott.O'Connell@telegram.com. Follow him on Twitter @ScottOConnellTG

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OPINION

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EDITORIAL

Take time to send a Christmas card

Buying gifts for everyone on the list, planning the holiday dinners, picking out an outfit, and running errands left and right. The days before Christmas can be very hectic, with so many decisions to make. Add to this list Christmas cards or putting together the elements for the annual Christmas letter. Years ago, it was a simple decision. You bought boxes of cards, took a family photo and made your own cards or spent a few hours penning a letter, bragging about how exciting the past year has been. Nowadays, many people simply don't have the time, fail to see the value, or for one reason or another view the practice as a thing of the past.

The culprit, of course, is social media. "Nobody under age 40 writes (a Christmas letter) anymore," Ann Burnett, a communications professor at North Dakota State University, said in a recent article. "Younger people already know what's going on with their circle through social media updates and say, 'What's the point of a letter?'"

Christmas cards have also seen a steep decline, dropping in a 10-year span from 2.9 billion sent in the mail in 2002 to 1.4 billion in 2012, according to Time magazine. E-cards are more popular nowadays, especially with the under 35 crowd.

One may ask why send cards to people you've been in regular contact with on Facebook? A quicker, and easier task is to just wake up on Christmas morning, type a greeting in your status bar, click, and bingo, you're all set.

A conversation among a group of 30-something friends on Facebook put this issue into perspective.

Pam: I'm just going to hand out our Christmas cards. I don't have anyone's address and I'm too lazy to write them out anyway.

Joe (her husband): You can't do that!

Pam: Is he right? Can I not do this? How about if you want a Christmas card you send me your address because I'm lazy and will never get around to looking up addresses.

Friend 1: Have people send you a self-addressed stamped envelope if they want a card.

Friend 2: Are e-cards a thing?

Friend 3: I just text mine to people.

Friend 4: A friend of mine took a picture of the front of the Christmas cards she was going to send out and posted it on Facebook... might that solve the address issue?

Friend 5: I'm sending and receiving Christmas cards. It shows you took the time to wish your friends and family. I wish more people would do it. Handing them out is fine though.

Friend 6: Mary and Joseph didn't send Christmas cards. I teach Sunday school. I know things.

Friend 7: Just don't do them at all and say you're being environmentally conscious!

We disagree. Take the time to write a Christmas card, mail it, and add a smile to the face of the recipient.

YOUR VIEWS

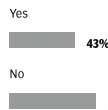
Poll question

The placement of a new Doherty High School has been the main sticking point in the early planning process with various groups raising concerns about each of the proposals. At a meeting last week, architects and city officials reiterated their stance that keeping the school at its current site on Highland Street remains the best of a relatively ideal set of options. Advocates for Elm Park, however, have sought assurance the project will not encroach onto the Newton Hill section of the park. Do you support building a new Doherty at its current site on Highland Street?

To comment or vote in our unofficial survey, go to telegram.com/opinion and click on the Facebook link or facebook.com/TheTelegram and cast your vote by noon. See results online and on tomorrow's editorial page

Yesterday's poll results

As Washington braces for this week's expected vote to impeach President Donald Trump, partisan battle lines hardened on Sunday, with Democrats defending impeachment even if Trump isn't removed from office and Republicans denouncing the integrity of the constitutional process. The Democratic-controlled House planned to vote Wednesday on two articles of impeachment against the Republican president. Is that the best thing for the country knowing the Senate will likely vote along party lines?



To vote in our unofficial survey, go to telegram.com/opinion or facebook.com/TheTelegram and cast your vote by 3 p.m. See results online and on tomorrow's editorial page. We want to hear your opinion.



AS I SEE IT

City must make educated decision about new Doherty High site

By Rick Miller

This community will soon make a decision that will forever change the landscape of a historic city public park, and that is being said with every pun intended!

A decision that some could argue is "historic" in nature, is "economic" in nature, is of "convenience" in nature, is "grandiose" in nature, and something that all can argue is nothing about nature and all about "education" in nature.

Ironic or absurd, you be the judge. While there is no debate about the need for a new school building for the Doherty High community, there is plenty to debate about the siting of the new school building and ultimately how that building serves the community. Especially when the school building abuts historic Elm Park.

In my eyes, city public school buildings and city public parks have a lot in common. They bring the community together, they welcome, they engage, and if they're done right, they inspire. On the other hand, if they're not done right, in particular through poor management, poor location and poor upkeep, they have the opposite effect on a community. Precisely why the siting of a new school building is a decision that needs to be made very carefully, something taxpayers and residents expect and deserve. Decisions of this magnitude should not be made out of convenience, they must be made diligently considering all options and all consequences and all residents.

What is our lesson in history? Will we be teaching and educating our youth about our city's forefathers? Men like Edward Winslow Lincoln, Obadiah Hadwen, the Green family, and Col. John Witherell to name a few whom had the foresight to advocate and preserve precious natural green spaces like Green Hill Park, Hadwen Park and Elm Park, one of the oldest public parks in this country! For extra points, how many communities can claim to have a park 165 years old?

Or will our history lesson be one of a city that will be remembered for destroying 131 years of park legacy and one of the oldest parks in the nation by forever altering the historic landscape to accommodate a new school building more than twice the size of a building that is being replaced? A wrong that previously



The building committee overseeing the planning process for a new Doherty Memorial High School is scheduled to pick from three proposals at a meeting on Wednesday. (FILE PHOTO/MATT WRIGHT)

altered and destroyed historic natural landscape and park amenities?

Here's our lesson in mathematics. Your problem to solve involves working a new four-story building of 420,000 square feet and 26 acres of property into one of three predetermined sites all with 20 acres or less of usable space and include parking for 400 cars. For extra points do so without displacing students during construction.

Our next lesson is economics. In essay form, please explain the economic value to a community on how preserving historical and cultural amenities, revitalizing neglected green spaces or repurposing abandoned property is advantageous? Or explain how of allowing abandoned properties and neglected green spaces or parks to become unsafe, unsightly and diminished assets to the community for long periods of time is economically prudent? Extra credit if you provide examples of three each.

Our last class is philosophy. Again in essay form, please provide your philosophical reasoning to the following. Please explain how a municipality is justified to use historic public park land for public school purposes that offers little or no educational or vocational components in particular environmental sciences and or civic responsibility? How is this a benefit to the community or to the student?

Again, it all comes down to an educated decision. Can we put a price on historic park land and what that means to a community?

Can we put a price on neighbors and taxpayers and local business partners who roll up their sleeves and invest years into revitalizing a neglected green space into a vibrant year round recreational asset? Can we do some thinking outside the box and do something progressive that not only preserves and enhances historic park land, but also repurposes abandoned property and an eyesore on Park Ave that compliments Beaver Brook Park and the Foley Stadium athletic complex?

Lastly, I challenge everyone to take a few minutes out of your day and stand at the corner of Park and Elm, stand on the bridges of Elm Park, or stand at the summit of Newton Hill and look toward the area of the open space of the Doherty athletic fields and visualize the massive four-story building towering over Highland Street and forever blocking the sunset over the Rogers Kennedy monument. Visualize the 100-year-old trees and the historic retaining walls on Highland Street, circa 1890, that will be lost. Haven't we lost enough historic icons?

This city has an opportunity to right a wrong and do this project right, an opportunity to protect and preserve our parks and repurpose neglected vacant property. Repeating mistakes of the past and locating a massive building in a site that's not appropriate is not an educated decision.

—Rick Miller is a Worcester resident

THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

Are plastic bag manufacturers encouraging non-use of "single-use" plastic bags?

There are two garbage pails in my apartment that fit "single-use" plastic bags perfectly. On a limited income this is great since I don't have to go out and pay for garbage bags to use. One of the garbage pails is the bottom of a shredder whose motor died.

As stated in a Feb. 23, 2011 Briefing note by Kirsty Bell and Suzie Cave titled "Comparison of

Environmental Impact of Plastic, Paper and Cloth Bags," "paper in landfills does not...breakdown at a...faster rate than plastic does." The Note also states "it takes more than four times as much energy to manufacture a paper bag as it does to manufacture a plastic bag." The Note continues "paper bags generate 70% more air and 60 times water pollutants than plastic bags."

A 20-foot container can store 30,000 cotton bags, whereas 2.5 million plastic bags will fit in the same space. This would incur the

use of 80 times more fuel and the emitting of 80 times more CO₂. This all leads me to wonder are the plastic bag manufacturers encouraging the non-use of "single-use" plastic bags to force consumers to buy garbage bags thus generating more income for them and those states who impose sales tax on these bags?

Well at least I'm recycling the bottom of the shredder.

Ginny Rosner
 Worcester

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Letters may be mailed to The People's Forum, Telegram & Gazette, 100 Front Street, Floor 5, Worcester, MA 01608-1440 or emailed to letters@telegram.com. Please include your full name, address and a daytime contact number for verification. Letters are limited to 250 words. Political endorsements are limited to 100 words.

Corrections: We want to correct our errors. Call 508-793-9245.



LOCAL | B1

JAKE HOOT TAKES TITLE ON 'VOICE'

Fan favorite Ricky Duran had a good run on "The Voice" but not enough to win the popular NBC music competition. He came in second.



SPORTS | C1

PROUD PIONEERS

The St. John's hockey team faced off against Boston College High 12 times over the past eight seasons and all it had to show for its efforts was a single point.

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TRUMP IMPEACHED

House approves articles of 'high crimes and misdemeanors'

By John Fritze
USA Today

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump became the third president in history to be impeached Wednesday after a bitterly divided House formally charged him with "high crimes and misdemeanors" over his request to Ukraine to investigate a political rival.

After a daylong debate marked by fiery recriminations, lawmakers voted largely along party lines in favor of impeachment, reshuffling American politics at a time when voters were already profoundly divided over the nation's leadership and direction.

Democrats and Republicans

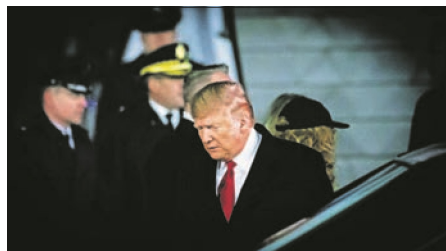
disagreed sharply over the president's actions, the ramifications of the historic vote, and each other's motives in either defending Trump or prosecuting the case against him. Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., stepped to the dais at one point to chide Republicans for what he described as choosing party over country.

"Many of my colleagues appear to have made their choice to protect the president, to enable him to be above the law, to empower this president to cheat again as long as it is in the service of their party and their power," the House Intelligence Committee chairman said. "They have made their choice and I believe they will rue the day that they did."

Republicans claimed Democrats were grasping for any excuse to undermine an unconventional president who unexpectedly and narrowly won election in 2016 against Hillary Clinton. They repeatedly described the process used in the run up to the vote as unfair, sidestepping the fact that the White House rebuffed invitations to take part.

"One week before Christmas, I want you to keep this in mind," Rep. Barry Loudermilk, R-Ga., told his colleagues during the debate. "Pontius Pilate afforded more rights to Jesus than the Democrats have afforded this president."

See TRUMP, A4



President Donald Trump arrives at the Battle Creek Executive Airport in Michigan on Wednesday evening for a rally as the U.S. House voted on two articles of impeachment against him. (MATTHEW DAE SMITH/USA TODAY NETWORK)



Peter and Konstantina Lukes unveil her portrait during a ceremony on Wednesday in Worcester City Hall. Lukes is retiring after 38 years of public service to the city of Worcester. (T&G STAFF/ASHLEY GREEN)

Worcester honors Konnie Lukes

City's first female elected mayor worked 30 years on council

By Craig Semon
Telegram & Gazette Staff

WORCESTER — In celebration of 38 years of public service, the city hosted a mayoral portrait unveiling for City Councilor-at-Large Konstantina "Konnie" B. Lukes Wednesday at City Hall.

Councilor Lukes, who served as mayor from 2007 to 2010, has been an at-large city councilor for 30 years and previously served as a member of the School Committee for eight years.

During the presentation, she was cited for being the longest-serving city councilor, for being the first and only woman elected mayor of Worcester by the voters and quite possibly, the only Albanian-American ever elected mayor in any

city of the United States. Holden Town Manager Peter Lukes, the son of Konnie and James Lukes, shared some early childhood memories of driving around on a rainy Sunday morning with a station wagon full of Lukes campaign signs (and his father posting them at "pretty much every illegal sign location in the city of Worcester"), being woken up at 1 a.m. after

See LUKES, A5

Committee opts to build Doherty High at Highland Street site

New school would open in 2024

By Scott O'Connell
Telegram & Gazette Staff

WORCESTER — After two years of intrigue over its potential location, the new Doherty High School will remain at the same spot as the current school, a city building committee decided Wednesday night.

While it's a tight squeeze, the Highland Street campus provides enough space for the new school to be built over the next few years while students continue to attend the old school, project planners have said. That arrangement ultimately ended up being preferable compared to two other options that were floated that would have relocated Doherty to either the current Foley Stadium site or the Chandler Magnet School site. The committee's vote was near unanimous at Wednesday's

meeting at Doherty — there was just one no vote and one abstention.

The new high school, which is in line to be partially funded by the state's School Building Authority, is tentatively slated to open in 2024. The project has been in the feasibility study phase for the past year; with Wednesday's vote, it will now move onto the schematic design phase, in which the city's architect on the project will come up with a detailed plan for the new building.

Since the building authority accepted Doherty High into its project pipeline two years ago, there has been controversy surrounding the new school's future siting.

Supporters of Elm Park, for instance, fiercely opposed any plans to further encroach onto parkland bordering the current Doherty campus on Highland Street.

See DOHERTY, A5

LOCAL | B1

SCHOOL MERGER

St. Peter-Marian and Holy Name high schools will combine next year as the Roman Catholic Diocese seeks to deal with shrinking student enrollment.

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LUKES

From Page A1

election night for a family portrait for the front page of the Worcester Telegram and campaigning with a sign for 12 to 14 hours on Sundays on Water Street.

"I remember all the countless times, countless times, that I was out somewhere with my mom and perfect strangers would come up to her and say, 'Hi, you don't know me but I really appreciate what you did,'" Peter Lukes said. "Those are the things that really strike me in the end, that I will always remember, and, you know, that your career was worth it. It was worth the sacrifices and the commitment and the work. It didn't go unnoticed, and it didn't go unappreciated."

"I say thank you for providing me with an inspiration and a model for what public service should be and how to behave," Peter Lukes. "I also want to say thank you for making me proud to say 'That's my mom.'"

School Superintendent Maureen Binienda thanked Konstantina Lukes for her dedication and service on behalf of all the children in Worcester public schools.

"I hope all the future generations that walk these halls and view the portraits stop and learn about the dedication Konnie has given Worcester," Binienda said. "My hope is, as young women walk through these halls, they stop and look at Konnie's photo and see themselves one day, also adding their photo on these walls, recognized as an effective leader in our great city."



Singer-songwriter Nat Needle performs during a ceremony honoring Konstantina B. Lukes, on Wednesday in Worcester City Hall. Lukes is retiring after 38 years of public service to the city of Worcester and Needle sang the ditty, "Please Put Down Your Dukes, Konnie Lukes," which he wrote when she became mayor. (T&G STAFF/ASHLEY GREEN)

State Sens. Harriette L. Chandler and Michael O. Moore, gave Konstantina Lukes a proclamation from the State Senate recognizing her years of public service and dedication to Worcester County.

Before the presentation, Chandler said a few words about "Konnie's influence" on her.

"I grew up in an era when women didn't get involved in politics. Women didn't run for office. I had never seen a woman run for office growing up," Chandler said. "But I saw you do it, and I think about all those little girls today who need to see the women on our school committees, the women on our city council. They need to see you. And they need to see the heads of our

departments that are women. ... You came first. You paved the way. You're a pioneer."

City Manager Edward M. Augustus Jr. said two words come to mind when thinking about Konnie ("fearless" and "a pro"), before giving her a chair in her honor.

"She was able to be tenacious, advocate as hard as she possibly could. She was never personal. She was never mean-spirited. She never held a grudge. She was always a pro about how she advocated for the things that she believed in, the opinions that she had, the constituencies she represented," Augustus said. "And I know I speak for myself, and I speak for all of my predecessors as a city manager, who long wanted to



Mayor Joseph Petty, City Manager Edward Augustus and Superintendent Maureen Binienda applaud during a ceremony honoring Konstantina Lukes, on Wednesday, in Worcester City Hall. Lukes is retiring after 38 years of public service to the city of Worcester. (T&G STAFF/ASHLEY GREEN)

say, 'Konnie, sit down.'"

Mayor Joseph M. Petty presented Konstantina Lukes the key to the city.

"We agree sometimes. Sometimes we disagree, but that never disagreeable, in the sense that at the end of the day the meeting was over, we always speak to each other at the end of the meeting and move on," Petty said. "It has always been a pleasure to serve with Konnie and someone who really made the place better for a lot of people in the City of Worcester."

After the unveiling of her portrait, Konstantina Lukes rattled off a list of people who had made impact in her life, including her husband, James J. Lukes (who was in the hospital with pneumonia); her son, Peter Lukes;

her Albanian-born father; former state Sen. Arthur E. Chase, City Clerk Susan M. Tedoux, and many others.

"Never give up, and believe in what you're doing," Konstantina Lukes said.

After the former unveiling, she pontificated about her portrait.

"I think the portrait makes the point that finally there's a female mayor that was the first to be popularly elected," she said. "That's the point I wanted to make. That it was assertive and sending a message."

She said it doesn't feel like 40 years.

As for the question of what's next, Konstantina Lukes said, "Everybody keeps asking. I haven't answer that question myself yet."

DOHERTY

From Page A1

As the relocation plans emerged, many families also spoke out against the proposal to close Chandler Magnet and scatter its students.

The razing of Foley Stadium, meanwhile, was the lowest graded option among the three, in part because of the challenge it would present the city to quickly find a replacement athletic

facility elsewhere.

Remaining on Highland Street, which a steering committee on Wednesday night recommended to the main building committee overseeing the project, is the most expensive of the three choices, however. According to project planners, that option would cost between \$202 million and \$294 million, compared to a \$266 million-\$269 million estimated price range to relocate to Chandler Magnet and \$286 million-\$289 million range to relocate to Foley Stadium.

The Doherty project, as laid out for

now, would entail building the new school, nicknamed "pods on park," to the left of the current school, with construction beginning in 2021. That new building will consist of six levels, built into the hillside of what is now the site's park space.

Once students are able to move into the new school in 2024, the project would then shift to demolishing the old Doherty building and replacing it with playing fields in 2025. The timing of the project would mean while construction is going on, Doherty would have to find off-site alternatives for

parking and athletic fields.

Another last-minute option that emerged Wednesday was the possibility of the city waiting to see whether the current St. Peter-Marian High School site on Grove Street would become available in the near future, after the Worcester Catholic Schools announced that school would be merging with Holy Name next year.

Russell Adams, assistant commissioner of the city's Department of Public Works and Parks, said waiting months for the Catholic schools to decide which of those schools it would

be selling - Holy Name is located on Granite Street on the other side of the city - would jeopardize the project's standing with the school building authority, however.

"As far as this project goes, we're tied to the Massachusetts School Building Authority's schedule - we'd be sacrificing that schedule, and being in their timeline," he said.

Scott O'Connell can be reached at Scott.O'Connell@telegram.com. Follow him on Twitter @ScottOConnellTG

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Opinion

T&G poll: Do you support building a new Doherty at its current site on Highland Street?

Posted Dec 17, 2019 at 8:53 AM

Updated Dec 17, 2019 at 8:53 AM

Go to www.facebook.com/TheTelegram to cast your vote.

**Worcester Telegram & Gazette**
about a week ago

The placement of a new Doherty High School has been the main sticking point in the early planning process with various groups raising concerns about each of the proposals. At a meeting last week, architects and city officials reiterated their stance that keeping the school at its current site on Highland Street remains the best of a relatively unideal set of options. Advocates for Elm Park, however, have sought assurance the project will not encroach onto the Newton Hill section of the park. Do you support building a new Doherty at its current site on Highland Street?

67% Yes, Highland Street

33% No, someplace else

This poll has ended. 359 Votes

1 4 13