

Timeline for PMS Project

September 2003 – October 2008

September 2003

Portsmouth School Board formed the Portsmouth Middle School Needs Assessment Study Committee to make recommendations to the board regarding new construction, improved construction, and/or renovation plans for PMS.

June 2004

- PMS Needs Assessment Study Committee published findings.
- The committee decided that Parrott Avenue was not a viable site because the needed facility would likely require use of eminent domain. At the time, it was felt that there was insufficient political will to engage in eminent domain proceedings given the history with the public library.
- The committee began search for other sites that would meet the necessary site size requirement for the state. The minimum site size for a middle school, as stated in Ed 321, is 10 acres of buildable land plus 1 acre for every 100 students. (For Portsmouth, the State requirement is 17 contiguous acres with 80% buildable land.)

October 2005

- School Board reviewed proposed sites for PMS. For reference, please see link in PMS Dialogue Database:
<http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/middleschooldesign/4.pdf>
- Multiple sites were considered and most were privately held. The cost of acquiring such land in Portsmouth was a major consideration.
- A parcel of city-owned land adjacent to the high school was identified in that search and subsequently considered for use by the middle school as it was city-owned, would likely have the least impact on taxes, had the appropriate acreage and would also help solve the city's lack of athletic fields.

2006

- As a result of city elections, new members on committee re-raised the question of Parrott Avenue site.
- Committee asked Team Design to consider Pierce land in conjunction with current site.

August 2006

Joint School Advisory Committee (JSAC) was formed to re-examine the two sites and recommend which was better suited for the improved facility.

February 2007

- JSAC presented final report detailing 2 conceptual designs for Parrott Avenue and one for the city owned land adjacent to High School.
- All designs were approximately 180,000 square feet. Comparable costs were also developed to help determine the best direction for the city. Parrott Avenue site plans were estimated to cost approximately \$41.5 million, plus \$7 million for offsite fields. This was inclusive of \$2 million placeholder for Pierce Land costs. Estimate for new facility on city-owned land, including 5 fields and auditorium, was \$39 million.
- JSAC decided that both sites were viable and passed decision back to school board.

May – July 2007

- Portsmouth Listens facilitated Study Circles process to gather community input regarding site selection. Participants were asked to answer the question “What criteria should be incorporated into our City’s plans to improve the educational facilities for our 6th, 7th and 8th graders?”
- The Study Circle groups strongly supported making the school work at the Parrott Avenue site. Please see the following link for more detail on the final reports: <http://portsmouthlistens.org/groups.htm>

August 2007

School Board sent letter to City Council saying it is prepared to support Parrott Avenue if certain criteria are met (school sustains the program and maintains grades 6,7 and 8, adequate parking and safety, and access to adequate fields) and requesting funding for new design alternative study for Parrott Avenue site.

August/September 2007

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) issued to find qualified architect for study. Please see <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/bids/08-08.pdf> for more details.

November/December 2007

Request for Proposals (RFP) issued to 5 pre-qualified consultants capable of providing design alternatives for the Middle School at its present site on Parrott Avenue. Please see <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/finance/bids/rfp08-08.pdf> for more details.

January 2008

JCJ and Destefano Architects were hired to develop design alternatives for Parrott Avenue site.

May/June 2008

Community Workshop series were conducted to present conceptual designs to community and to gather community input. A variety of concepts were proposed and input received was used to narrow the choices. Please see the PMS

Dialogue Database for notes, comments, presentations and video of these sessions. <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/middleschool.htm>

June 2008

At a Joint City Council/School Board work session the City Council asked the School Board to pick a preferred option.

July 2008

The School Board considered the available options and determined that the “Option Left” - which requires the deed restriction be removed from the Pierce Land – to be the “preferred option”.

To October 2008

The school board and school department has worked with the design team to reduce preliminary designs to approximately 132,000 square feet. The board believes that this is very close to our final recommendation for space needed to meet the needs of the students and the program in a safe, healthy, environmentally friendly way. The School Board continues to work on optimizing the needs and the costs in an open and communicative manner. A board vote on site, size and cost is expected to take place on October 21, 2008