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**AHS Building Committee adjusts project to meet budget**

On December 18th, the AHS Building Committee closed the remaining \$24.7 million gap between the Design Development estimate and the project budget. “We achieved our goals of maintaining the educational program and building quality,” remarked AHS Building Committee Chair Jeff Thielman. “The competitive and volatile construction market made it a challenge, but we are pleased with the result.”

The project entered the Design Development phase in June 2019. During this phase, the design becomes more detailed and a new cost estimate is done. A first look in November showed a gap of \$29.5M between the Design Development estimate and the project budget; further reconciliation reduced the difference to \$24.7M. Over the course of five meetings, the Committee used a combination of value engineering, design modifications, and scope changes to reduce this gap, exploring items ranging in cost from \$6,000 to over \$4 million.

Changes with the most cost savings included reducing the number of geothermal wells (while still achieving carbon-neutral sustainability goals); modifying exterior brick selection; removing lights for the new athletic fields (lighting infrastructure and artificial turf surface remain); eliminating Minuteman Bikeway connector ramp; eliminating the east staircase and ramp connecting Mass. Ave. to the fields. The Building Committee may choose to list some of the items removed from the project as “alternates”, allowing them to be included later in the project if the budget allows.

In the coming weeks, the design team will submit the Design Development documents to the MSBA for review while continuing to prepare construction documents. As additional details of the design are finalized, two more estimates will be performed (~ April 2020 and July 2020). Both estimates will be subject to the same value engineering process as required by the MSBA. If either estimate is higher than the approved budget, the Building Committee will again need to determine how to close the gap. Project pre-work is still anticipated to begin in mid-February and construction in October 2020.

Additional information is available on the project website at [www.ahsbuilding.org](http://www.ahsbuilding.org).