

School Facilities Study Committee

Minutes

Monday, December 5, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Present:

School Facilities Study Committee: Lou Pear, Eileen Moynihan, Kerry Darby, Robert Hetrick, David Murphy, Scott Nicol, Peter Filanda

Others Present: Charles Britton (Superintendent of Schools), Stephanie Fragola (Business Manager, Portland Public Schools) Bob Shea (Director of Buildings & Grounds) Ryan Walstrom (Principal of Gildersleeve School) Town Residents, Nick Conti & Marco Mazarella

Absent: Meg Scata & Michael Hernandez

1. Call to Order

Lou Pear called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

2. Approve Agenda

Motion to amend the agenda to add an item – Request to Board of Selectmen to Extend Deadline of Report, by Robert Hetrick, seconded by David Murphy, unanimously approved, motion carried, and the item was added. The item will be added after item #5.

3. Approve the Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes made by Eileen Moynihan, seconded by Peter Filanda, unanimously approved, motion carried.

4. Bonding Report

Charles Britton discussed a financial analysis from David Eisenthal, the Town of Portland Financial Planner (Unibank Fiscal Advisory Services, Inc.). This analysis explained how each scenario will affect the town's mill rate and does not include the secondary school complex.

- Scenario 1 –Make capital improvements to all 3 elementary schools only. Affects the mill rate by .36 of a mill. This scenario assumes no matching funds from the state and no overhead savings from reducing the number of schools.
- Scenario 2 –Town reconfigures the elementary schools to create a PreK-3 at Valley View and Brownstone School to grades 4-6. Affects the mill rate by 1.06 mills. This scenario assumes we receive some state funding and does not factor in overhead savings from closing Gildersleeve School.
- Scenario 3 – Gildersleeve & Brownstone Schools will be given back to the town and Valley View becomes a PreK-6 with additions. Affects the mill rate by 1.46 mills. This scenario assumes that we receive some state funding and does not factor in overhead savings from reducing Brownstone and Gildersleeve schools.

Discussion followed.

5. Update on Meeting with Department of Administrative Services (DAS)

Lou Pear, Charles Britton and Stephanie Fragola had a meeting with DAS to explain what the committee has done so far and make them aware that Portland is exploring options. It is important that DAS is aware of what the committee is trying to accomplish. The next meeting with DAS is February 9, 2023. Discussion followed.

6. Request to Board of Selectmen to Extend Deadline

It was discussed that with the next meeting with DAS not until 2/9/23, that the committee will need to request an extension on reporting from the Board of Selectmen.

7. Other Business

Lou Pear condensed information from the Sight Line Report. This mirrors the scenarios discussed previously. Committee concerns at Brownstone – Cafeteria, Playground, Parent Drop off and Gymnasium. This information also includes state funding and costs to the town. Discussion followed.

8. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Eileen Moynihan, seconded by David Murphy, unanimously approved, motion carried, and meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

***Next meeting March 6, 2023 7pm at the Portland High School Library**

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Paternostro, Recording Clerk