

School Facilities Study Committee

Minutes

Monday, October 17, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Present:

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

Others Present: Charles Britton (Superintendent of Schools), Stephanie Fragola (Business Manager, Portland Public Schools) Bryce Sens & Michael Serano from Friar Architecture

Absent: Michael Hernandez & Peter Filandia

1. Call to Order

Lou Pear called the meeting to order at 6:59pm.

2. Approve Agenda

Motion to amend the agenda to add an item – Square Foot Reduction at BIS, by Kerry Darby, seconded by David Murphy, unanimously approved, motion carried, and the item was added. The item will be added after Approve the Minutes.

3. Approve the Minutes

Eileen Moynihan asked that the minutes from the last meeting be amended, item #5, second bullet, change “All agree that Gildersleeve should close and that Brownstone should remain a school with upper elementary” to “All agree that Gildersleeve should close and that if Brownstone remains a school it should house upper elementary”. Motion to amend the minutes and accept the minutes made by Kerry Darby, seconded by Meg Scata, unanimously approved, motion carried.

4. Square Foot Reduction

Lou Pear discussed with Friar Architecture about reducing the square footage at Brownstone so that it will bring the cost down to renovate. Friar showed three different diagrams of possible ideas. If the committee decides to turn over part of Brownstone to the town, it will reduce the square footage, thus saving on the cost to renovate. Discussion followed.

5. Blocking Presentation from Friar Architecture

- Friar presented to the committee a diagram showing either a one story or 2-story addition to Valley View on the left side of the building. Two stories if the committee decides on a Pre-K through 5 or 6, or a one story if the committee decides on the smaller school. They also suggested revising the existing gym to be the cafeteria and adding another edition on the front of the existing structure for a new gym (if the larger school is decided)
- Lou Pear expressed that he feels the town will not buy into closing two schools. The town will also be concerned about how it will effect taxes.
- Further discussion followed

6. Review/Discussion of Current Options

Discussion from committee members on current options with input from Robert Hetrick about what is happening on the town side that will effect taxes. The committee will keep in mind other town projects when making their decision. Further discussion followed.

7. Update on Plan to Get Report from Town Financial Planner

Charles Britton and Stephanie Fragola met with Tom Robinson and Ryan Curley about the different scenarios that Friar Architecture has presented to the committee. The concern is the cost to the town and how it will effect taxes, as that will sway how the community will vote.

8. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Meg Scata, seconded by Eileen Moynihan, unanimously approved, motion carried, and meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.

***Next meeting November 14, 2022 7pm at the Portland High School Library**

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Paternostro, Recording Clerk