

School Facilities Study Committee

Meeting

Monday, October 18, 2021

Portland High School Library/Room 221, 95 High St., Portland, CT 06480

7:00 p.m.

Present: Peter Filandia, Eileen Moynihan, David Murphy, Scott Nichol, Lou Pear, Meg Scata, Kerry Darby

Absent: Michael Hernandez

Others Present: Charles Britton (Superintendent of Schools), Stephanie Fragola (Business Manager-Portland Schools), Ryan Walstrom (Principal, Gildersleeve School), Carl Johnson (Director of Buildings & Grounds)

1. Call to Order

Lou Pear called the School Facilities Study Committee meeting to order at 7:05pm in Room 221 at Portland High School, 95 High St., Portland, Connecticut. Motion to approve the Agenda by Peter Filandia, Meg Scata seconded, all in favor. Lou Pear explained that on the minutes from the last meeting Michael Hernandez was listed as absent and present. It was noted that he was present. Also Donna Finkelstein was listed as absent, however she has resigned from the committee. Motion to accept the amended minutes by Meg Scata, seconded by Peter Filandia. Lou also explained that Kerry Darby has been approved by the Board of Selectmen as a new member of the committee. Congratulations to Kerry.

2. Review of RFP for Architectural Firm

Charles Britton discussed the change of the RFP from an OPM (Operation Project Manager) to an Architectural firm as the state is not a “big fan” of OPM’s and that an Architect can accomplish the same tasks as an OPM, thus saving the district money. Stephanie Fragola explained that the scope will remain the same in the RFP. Discussion followed in regards to making sure there will be enough money to cover what is expected of the Architecture firm. Meg Scata put forth a motion to move forward with a change to the RFP from an OPM firm to an Architectural firm to present to the Board of Education at the next meeting on Tuesday, October 19th. David Murphy seconded, all in favor, motion passed. Charles went on to explain that the committee is behind by four weeks with the RFP and the change, however, there should not be an issue in meeting the goals set forth by the First Selectwoman and the charge of the committee.

3. Review of Enrollment Study from NESDEC & Peter Prowda

Charles explained that the NESDEC enrollment report is not 100% accurate, and for the committee to use it as a baseline. Charles has inquired about using Peter Prowda and shared with the committee the proposal of what the report will include with the committee. Peter has done many enrollment studies for other school districts, and the initial cost to do the report will be \$2300 and for a PowerPoint presentation at a Board of Selectman and Board of Education meeting the cost will be \$480 (\$180 per hour). The committee agrees it is worth the cost and Charles will inquire with another firm to see if their price may come in lower.

4. Debrief Notes from Brainstorming Activity

Lou explained that there were a few questions/ideas included that he felt were appropriate ideas as it pertains to this committee's charge; energy savings for a potential new building and also the cost and benefit to the students. He felt that these are ideas we need to keep in mind as we move forward with this committee. Charles asked if Eileen Moynihan would share her thoughts of working in the Portland district as it compared to working in her previous district of West Hartford. She explained that the 3 elementary schools in Portland are "3 islands" out on their own, whereas in West Hartford, the elementary schools were K-5. If we were to have one K-5 school, collaboration, peer mentoring and overall sharing of information would be much easier and accessible. Ryan Walstrom also mentioned Special Education and how the district needs resources in each building now, whereas having one K-5 school, all the resources would be in one building. Discussions followed regarding 6th grade and where that should be housed and how to create revenue with any of the buildings that may close.

5. Public Comment – no public comment

6. Based on the timeframe of the RFP, it was proposed to move the next meeting date to 11/15/21, all members were in favor of this change.
7. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12pm by Eileen Moynihan, Peter Filandia seconded, all in favor, meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

Respectfully submitted
Liz Paternostro, Recording Clerk