

School Facilities Study Committee

Meeting

Monday, September 13, 2021

Portland Middle School Library, 93 High St., Portland, CT 06480

7:00 p.m.

Present: Peter Filandia, Michael Hernandez, David Murphy, Scott Nichol (via Zoom), Lou Pear, Meg Scata

Absent: Donna Finkelstein & Michael Hernandez

Others Present: Charles Britton (Superintendent of Schools), Stephanie Fragola (Business Manager-Portland Schools) via Zoom, Ryan Walstrom (Principal, Gildersleeve School), Kerry Darby, parent representative

1. Lou Pear called the School Facilities Study Committee meeting to order at 7:02pm in the Portland Middle School Library, 93 High St., Portland, Connecticut. Motion to accept, Meg Scata seconded, all in favor.

2. Update on RFP/RFQ for OPM

Charles Britton discussed the RFP/RFQ: Stephanie Fragola researched and explained that we should do a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and then from the information gathered from that the Request for Proposal (RFP) can be completed. From the RFQ we hope to get at least 4 firms to respond with qualifications, references and examples of other jobs completed. Discussions followed and Charles explained that he hopes to publish the RFQ by the end of the week.

3. Debrief of Building Tours

Lou Pear explained that the group started at Brownstone School, then to Gildersleeve and finished at Valley View. At each school they toured classrooms, cafeterias and auditoriums. While they were touring they were discussing how to repurpose, reconfigure or add on to each of the buildings. Discussion followed which included discussion of the 2005 study and the Sightlines report - does it make sense to put the \$30 million into the existing buildings to maintain/update? Following this discussion, Lou Pear introduced Kerry Darby as a future member of the committee, which the Board of Selectmen will adopt at the next meeting.

4. Brainstorming Options for Portland Public Schools Facilities

Charles created a google document for the members of the committee to enter questions and comments based on the following possible scenarios for the Portland School buildings:

- Keep all 5 schools open and use the Sightlines Report to update/fix where needed OR
- Reduce the school buildings by 1 and repurpose that building and move grades to the remaining buildings OR
- Close 2 buildings and move grades to the remaining 3 buildings
- Charles discussed each scenario in great detail and what it would entail to accomplish each scenario with the pros and cons.

- Charles will keep the document open for the rest of the week for the committee to add anything they may think of.
- 20 days after the RFQ is sent out, Charles would like to get either the whole committee or a sub-committee together to go through the information that is received. Discussion followed.

5. **Public Comment** – no public comment

6. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:17pm, David Murphy seconded, all in favor, meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.

Respectfully submitted

Liz Paternostro, Recording Clerk