

School Facilities Study Committee

Minutes

Monday, March 6, 2023

7:00 p.m.

Present:

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

Others Present: Ryan Curley (First Selectman), Charles Britton (Superintendent of Schools), Mike Mazarella, Gilbane Building Co., Bryan Dodge, Gilbane Building Co., Mike Sorano, Friar Architect

Absent: Stephanie Fragola, Bob Shea, Ryan Walstrom

1. Call to Order

Lou Pear called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

2. Approve Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda by Meg Scata, seconded by Eileen Moynihan, unanimously approved, motion carried.

3. Approve the Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes made by David Murphy, seconded by Robert Hetrick, unanimously approved, motion carried.

4. Correspondence

Lou Pear provided the committee with a copy of a letter from Jesse Revicki, Youth & Family Services Administrator. The letter is in support of repurposing Brownstone Intermediate School into a multi-purpose community and business center. The letter goes on to say that the potential of repurposing BIS would allow Parks & Rec, Portland's Youth & Family Services and potentially the Portland Food Bank to relocate here. No further discussion.

5. Review Two School Modernization Plans

Mike Sorano of Friar Architect presented the two options:

- **Option 1:** Maintain 2 schools, consolidate to one PK-6 School. Close BIS & Gildersleeve, and create a PK-6th Grade School at the Valley View location, renovating and adding extensions creating a 90,976 SF facility– cost to town \$45,873,780. Price includes revamping the parking lot and playground area. Capital improvements only to the Portland Secondary School.
- **Option 2:** Maintain 3 schools. Close Gildersleeve. Renovate as new and add extensions to Valley View to make a PK-3 school, creating a 53,388 SF facility. BIS-renovate as new, reducing square footage by giving parts of the square footage back to the town. The town would receive the auditorium and part of the first floor classrooms and garage area. The other parts of the building would be renovated as new to house Grade 4-6. The maximum allowable square footage would be 42,636 to get the most reimbursement from

the state. Cost to the town \$42,679,794. Note that this cost does not include any renovations to the existing parking lot and playground area at BIS. Capital improvements only to the Portland Secondary School.

- The state is impressed and happy with the progress of the committee and the steps the committee has taken to get to this point.
- Ryan Curley asked Friar Architect to include the Auditorium as part of the BIS renovation, and update the pricing.
- Key points made during discussion – voters need to be made aware of the cost associated with closing a school. It was suggested that a second committee may need to be put in place to investigate options for what to do with BIS and Gildersleeve schools if they are both closed. A debt service analysis should be done so that voters are aware of how these prices will affect the mill rate. Voters need to vote based on what is best for Portland students and their education.
- The Committee was asked to review the 2 options and be prepared to vote at the next meeting.

6. Other Business

Nothing discussed

7. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Scott Nicol, seconded by Eileen Moynihan, unanimously approved, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 8:19pm.

***Next meeting April 3, 2023 7pm at the Portland High School Library**

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Paternostro, Recording Clerk