

**Town of Stonington
K-12 Building Committee
Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 18, 2015
7:00pm
Central Office, Old Mystic, CT**

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CYNTHIA LADWIG
TOWN CLERK

Members Present: Rob Marseglia, Chairman; Bill Sternberg, Vice Chairman; Julie Holland, Secretary; Kathy Sanford, Deborah Downie, George Crouse, Rob Sundman, Mike Fauerbach and June Strunk via telephone

Recording Secretary: Sandy Tissiere

Guests and Citizens: Paul Moore, DRA; Greg Keith, Principal, Mystic Middle School; Jen McCurdy, Principal, Deans Mill School; Paul Sartor, and press

1. Call to Order

Chairman Marseglia called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

There were not any revisions for the minutes of Tuesday, February 10, 2015. For the Thursday, February 12, 2015 minutes, Mr. Fauerbach requested the following amendment to the sentence under Item 2: "Mr. Marseglia created a chart giving members the opportunity to choose which options they recommend to bring forward." to read "Mr. Marseglia created a chart giving members the opportunity to choose which options they recommend for which DRA will provide a detailed cost estimate." The following motion was made by Mike Fauerbach and seconded by George Crouse:

Motion: To approve the minutes of February 10, 2015 as presented and the February 12, 2015 minutes as amended.

All: Aye

3. Architect Report

Chairman Marseglia started the discussion with creating clarity around the choice of the elementary schools consisting of Pre K – grade 4 or Pre K – grade 5. A discussion evolved around what the Board of Education would support regarding these choices. Ms. Downie reiterated the Board of Education would prefer Pre K – grade 5 elementary schools but would support renovation as well. It was spoken about how if the elementary buildings were renovated for Pre K – grade 4, they could be designed to be expandable if an addition was needed. Ms. Downie remarked it would probably be more cost effective to renovate the buildings to house Pre K – grade 5 now then add on later.

Mr. Moore shared his presentation surrounding the final options with cost projections requested from the previous meeting. He asked the committee if they wanted to go through the whole presentation or directly to the projected cost estimates? The consensus was to view the cost estimates. The presented options were: D.1 – Current Five Building Option: Renovate as new and extend both Deans Mill and West Vine Pre K-4, Close West Broad, Move Central Office and close Old Mystic, and do nothing at the middle schools; D.2 – Five Buildings: Renovate as new and extend Deans Mill & West Vine Pre K-5, Close West Broad, Move Central Office and close Old Mystic, and do nothing at the middle schools; E.1 – New middle school for 6-8, Renovate as new and extend Pawcatuck Middle for Pre K-5, Renovate as new and extend Mystic Middle for Pre K-5, Close West Vine, Deans Mill and West Broad, and move Central Office; E.2 – Renovate as new and extend both Deans Mill and West Vine Pre K-5, Combine middle schools at Mystic Middle grades 6-8, Close Pawcatuck Middle and West Broad, Move Central Office and close Old Mystic; E.4 – Build a new middle school for 6-8; Modify/add at Pawcatuck for Pre K-5, Modify Mystic Middle for Pre K-5, Close West Vine, Deans Mill, and West Broad, move Central Office.

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The committee discussed the options and costs. The committee determined options E.1 and E.4 were cost prohibitive. The concern around option E.2 was the length of the bus ride for children on the Pawcatuck side of town, the closing of another school building and the ability to expand Mystic Middle if the statistics of student decrease in 2019 did not hold true. The committee discussed the importance of their original goal of creating the best educational experience for children in the elementary grades and completing that project as a foremost objective. The committee compared options D.1 and D.2, taking in consideration the cost of expansion if needed at a later date vs. renovating/adding to accommodate Pre K-5; the committee agreed option D.2 with modifications would be their best choice. The modification to D.2 would be expanded gymnasium size and air conditioning for both elementary schools and new roofs for the Mystic Middle School and Pawcatuck Middle School. Mr. Moore of DRA will provide an updated cost analysis with these inclusions to Mr. Crouse by Friday, February 19. Mr. Sternberg will draft a recommendation letter to the Board of Selectman for committee review at the Monday, February 23, meeting. Mr. Crouse will provide the committee with the steps of the bonding process at that meeting as well.

Adjourn

The following motion was made by Bill Sternberg and seconded by Rob Sundman:

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 9:17pm

All: Aye

Julie Holland, Secretary