STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION/BOARD OF FINANCE SCHOOL SAFETY COMMITTEE

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING December 10, 2014

The special joint meeting of the Stonington Board of Education and Board of Finance School Safety Committee was called to order at 8:40 a.m. in the Stonington Police Department conference room. Members present were Frank Todisco, BOE Chairperson, Alisa Morrison, Glenn Frishman, Board of Finance member, Van Riley, Superintendent, Bill King, Business Manager, Julie Holland, Building Committee secretart, and Darren Stewart, Chief Stonington Police.

Absent: Sandy Grimes

Also present were DRA representatives, Alan Johnson, Ken Best, and Board of Finance member, June Strunk.

Frank Todisco thanked everyone for their attendance and noted that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss school safety needs.

Introduction of DRA Architect(s)

Julie Holland introduced the DRA representatives who had on hand a presentation that explained different levels of school safety.

DRA representatives, Alan Johnson and Ken Best presented a PowerPoint presentation on layers of security within school buildings and shared their recommendations for our existing schools. The DRA representatives explained the six layers of security. The DRA representatives shared their thoughts on improving security measures at our elementary school buildings while using the existing layout.

Discussion re: School Safety Issues

Bill King and Alisa Morrison had questions on student drop off and pick up situations concerning safety issues. DRA representatives gave recommendations on this issue.

Frank Todisco directed questions to Chief Darren Stewart and Bill King regarding new protocols that have been established after the tragedy in Newtown. Chief Stewart and Mr. King spoke on current safety measures put into place at each school building such as a code red buttons, police coverage and periodic group meetings with school administration and the police department officials.

The committee shared ideas on how to address some of the current safety needs in an effective manner, use of signage, vestibules, radio communication, cameras, door alarms, fencing at WVS, and clearing of brush. The committee also reported on current safety protocols that are in place at each school building. Bill King reported on the cost of implementing each safety item.

June Strunk had comments on the configuration of the recommended vestibule area, concerns of the proposed layout, safety cameras, cost of someone to monitor cameras, cost of door alarms and state and town reimbursement.

Discussion of Next Steps

Glenn Frishman asked that Bill King finalize the cost of the radios, how many additional radios including any other safety related item needed, which will be put into place in the interim until the Building Committee finalizes the building of a new school. Mr. Frishman will share this information with the remaining Board of Finance members at the January 14th Board of Finance meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Frank Todisco, Board of Education Chair

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