

**Town of Stonington
K-12 School Building Committee
Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 7, 2016
4:30pm
Central Office, Old Mystic, CT
Page | 1**

Members Present: Julie Holland, Secretary; Deb Downie, and Rob Sundman

Late Arrival: Wendy Wilbert: 4:52pm

Members Absent: Rob Marseglia, Chairman; Kate Rotella, Vice Chairwoman, George Crouse, June Strunk, Kathy Sandford and Dan Oliverio

Recording Secretary: Sandy Tisiere

Guests and Citizens: Van Riley, Superintendent, Stonington Public Schools; Bill King, Director of Operations and Facilities, Stonington Public Schools; Jim Barrett, Anwar Hossain, DRA; Chuck Warrington, Scott Pellman, Colliers; Alicia Dawe, Principal, West Vine Street/West Broad Street Schools; Jen McCurdy, Principal, Deans Mill School; and Tom Bousquet, Assistant Principal, Deans Mill School;

1. Call to Order

Julie Holland called the meeting to order at 4:33pm.

2. Detailed Design Review

Dr. Van Riley explained the purpose of the this meeting is to answer questions the Building Committee had regarding the schematic design plans of West Vine Street School and Deans Mill School. Anwar Hossain led the discussion with the demonstration of poster size versions of the schematic designs. Mr. Hossain told the group the questions had been reviewed and working with the school principals, the schematic designs had been updated. Starting with Deans Mill School, the following changes were incorporated: The square footage requirements were adjusted; Restrooms on the second floor were moved from either end of the hall to the middle; and the special education rooms were numbered to reflect their use. Mr. Hossain explained because of the size of the schools and the ability to use existing space, there could not be exact parity between the schools. The storage issue of the music rooms was discussed and instead of having storage closets located outside the room, it was decided to expand the square footage of the room and add storage within the space creating flexibility of storage. A discussion regarding flexibility with room dividers was discussed. Jim Barrett spoke of being cautious of using dividers as one is the cost factor and the second is the sound factor as the State has requirement regarding sound levels in shared environments. Dr. Riley told Mr. Barrett the previously discussed consideration of flexibility would be to create interior walls without mechanical/electrical systems that could be removed in the future based on need. Mr. Barrett said this is something that could be taken into consideration. Mr. Barrett and Mr. Hossain told the committee the goal is to reach a point, collectively, where the floor plan is done so the detailed design phase could begin. Location of where rooms were located within the building was discussed, i.e. which grade levels were State mandated to be on the first floor. Julie Holland asked about the possibility of enclosing the entrance to use as usable space? Mr. Warrington explained about the certain net square footage in the grant and the programmatic statement of space usage and how enclosing the area would be additional square footage. He reminded the committee about adding things that are not in the educational specifications or educational programming, to ask the questions: Is it necessary? Is it added programming? The teacher's breakroom has been moved closer to cafeteria and the needed size of it was discussed at length such as how many staff members used it at any given time and how the space would be utilized. Rob Sundman and Alicia Dawe voiced their appreciation to DRA for the amount of changes made in a relatively short amount of time. Mr. Hossain shared West Vine Street School's revised schematic design. The staff

Town of Stonington
K-12 School Building Committee
Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 7, 2016
4:30pm
Central Office, Old Mystic, CT
Page | 2

breakroom is still located on the second floor and the possibility of it being moved to the first floor was discussed. Again, as the cafeteria is located in the part of the building that is being renovated, there is limited space for State required location specifications and fitting additional wanted spaces as well. Storage space for custodian/maintenance use was discussed as at West Vine Street School there is one storage space accessible from the outside of the building and a shed will be located outside to house lawn mowers and other necessary supplies. Mr. Hossain and Mr. Barrett spoke of how interior spaces can be adjusted in the detailed designs, the schematic designs are to get the layout set. Alicia Dawe inquired about the main office space and the file cabinet storage area. In regards to special education student files, as they cannot leave the office, the teachers need to view them in a private setting, would it be possible to readjust the space to allow that? Mr. Barrett and Mr. Hossain made note of this inquiry. The foyer outside the gymnasium was discussed regarding the possibility of creating usable space. There are concerns of the cathedral ceiling and the open concept from the second floor. This led into a discussion of the use of space being in line with educational specifications, and use of square footage for educational programming. The last items discussed were windows on the walls of interior based classrooms to allow more light and the possibility of restrooms in the gymnasium locker rooms.

3. Adjourn

The following motion was made by Rob Sundman and seconded by Julie Holland:

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:46pm.

All: Aye



Julie Holland, Secretary