

Board of Education
Fairfield Public Schools
Fairfield, CT

Standing Committee Meeting
Facilities, Technology and Long Range Planning

Wednesday, January 10, 2011
Education Center
501 Kings Highway East
Superintendent's Conference Room
7:00 PM

Minutes

Members Present: Tim Kery, Chair; John Mitola, Perry Liu

Others Present: Dr. David Title, Jack Boyle, Anna Cutaia-Leonard, Sal Morabito, Judy Ewing, Betty Ann O'Shaughnessy, Jessica Gerber, and another parent

I. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

II. The minutes of December 13, 2010 were approved, 3 - 0 - 0.

III. During a discussion of the enrollment projections, Tim Kery said he would like to understand them better. Dr. David Title said that they can be used as a planning tool, and that projects could be justified because of them. Concern was expressed that there appeared to be growth in the Stratfield and McKinley areas, but no further work was anticipated. Jack suggested that questions be addressed via e-mail to the consultants prior to the meeting if possible.

The consultants are expected to present at the January 24 RTM meeting to answer questions. John Mitola expressed some doubts in the projections, so he wondered about the information as a whole. There appeared to be less emphasis on birth rate and more on other factors, especially immigration. The information showed growth south of the Post Road and in the eastern part of town.

The committee also discussed the terms "functional capacity" and "operational capacity." The first was related to how many students the facility would hold; the latter had more to do with appropriate space for program delivery. The focus of the discussion was on some of the elementary schools such as Mill Hill, Holland Hill, Riverfield, and possibly Jennings, and the two high schools, especially FLHS. The goal was to reduce the use of portables, although they have proven to be useful, but a short-term solution.

IV. The next steps to be taken include updating the anticipated facilities improvements, getting the Board of Education to accept the plan, and then taking it to the town bodies. Several members mentioned hiring an architect to do an analysis of some of the alternatives available

given the condition of the buildings and constraints of the properties. Dr. Title said he would like to better understand the process.

V. Two handouts were distributed. One was a four year plan of facilities needs, and the other was a roof replacement plan. The first needs some additional updating with more detail before taking it to the Board of Education for approval. The roof plan involves making minor improvements and obtaining warranty extensions to extend the life of the roof at Sherman, North Stratfield, Osborn Hill, Riverfield and Holland Hill, and to phase in the work, resulting in reducing cost impacts. There appeared to be a difference between the amount anticipated by the First Selectman for financial planning and the anticipated facilities upgrades and school space needs.

V. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

(NOTE: The committee will meet again on January 31st at 5:30 PM. The goal is to be on the BOE agenda for February 8th. The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 7th at 5:30 pm.)