

Town of Colchester
WJJMS Building Committee
Special Meeting
March 27, 2014 - 7:00 PM
WJJMS Media Center

MINUTES

Members Present: Thomas Tyler, Paul Picard, Joseph Ruiz, Irene Malsbenden, Joseph DeLucia, Steve Wells

Members Absent: Anthony Tarnowski

Others Present: Principal Chris Bennett, Director of Facilities Ken Jackson, Board of Education Liaison Brad Bernier, Board of Finance Liaison Art Shilosky, Bacon Academy Civic Students

1. **Call to order:** Chairman Tyler called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Citizens Comments:**
 - a) **Town e-mail:** Committee e-mail is still active but has not had any new messages.
3. **Approval of the Minutes:**
 - **February 27, 2014:** – I. Malsbenden motioned to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2014, seconded by J. DeLucia. All members voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**
4. **Discussion on Revised School Only Project –**
 - a) **Timeline** – No update. Chairman Tyler has not heard back from the First Selectman.
 - b) **Milestones** – No update. Chairman Tyler has not heard back from the First Selectman
 - c) **Communication** – Chairman Tyler will talk to the First Selectman about the possibility of recording the minutes to be available on the website. A budget is needed for materials to inform citizens of the project. The architect could help with suggestions on best methods of communication to be used. Once a referendum date is set, any informational material could then be seen as advocacy for the project. Chairman Tyler would like to see periodic tri-board meetings to make sure everyone is clear on what is going on with the project and that the boards are still behind it.
 - d) **Architect – letter sent to BSF** – K. Jackson has not heard back from the State regarding the use of the same architect. Chairman Tyler spoke with Jeff Wyszynski at Tecton. Tecton is still interested in the project and feels they have the capacity to do the job. Marco Tommasini would no longer be the architect on the project but instead an architect that specializes in schools. Members agreed that it would be difficult to switch architects and meet the deadline of state submittal date of June 2015. There was consensus on being pleased with Tecton but feel that a new architect could bring a fresh view to the project. Principal Bennett and P. Picard expressed a lack of satisfaction with the architect. Members would like to meet the new architect before making any definite decisions. K. Jackson will ask Tecton to provide an electron copy of the new architect's resume.

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e) **Next Steps** – Various scenarios on the design of the school were discussed. Principal Bennett was asked if given the choice, would he go with the previous design eliminating the Senior Center and Community Center portions, or make changes. Principal Bennett responded saying he felt that having the main entrance of the school facing Norwich Avenue would be more efficient. I. Malsbenden commended J. DeLucia on speaking out at the last meeting about a youth center being part of the project. She finds it quite disturbing that the safety issues of kids at school are being addressed but the safety of the kids getting to the youth center and while there are not being. J. DeLucia said he brought up the youth center being part of the project as a thought on how to deal with the issue of having two gyms. The second gym is needed by the community but if kept as part of the school the square footage would work against us when being reimbursed by the state. All members were in agreement that the town can't lose the gym. There was debate as to whether or not the committee should approach the BOS asking for a waiver of the scope to include a youth center. No decision on what to do at this point was made. The committee was in agreement that they do not want to jeopardize the school project going forward by including a youth center. No decision was made at any time. Principal Bennett praised the pictorial K. Jackson did for a budget presentation showing all that needs to be done to WJJMS. There was recently raw sewage leaking into the basement of the school and onto the electrical system. There had been concern as to if the system would have to be shut down.

5. **Future Meeting Dates:** Meeting dates remain as approved at previous meeting.

6. **Citizens Comments:** None

7. **Adjournment:** J. Ruiz motioned to adjourn, seconded by P. Picard. Vote was unanimous. **MOTION CARRIED.** Chairman Tyler adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by,



Dawn LePage, Clerk