

**JOINT MEETING OF THE PUBLIC BUILDING AND SITE COMMISSION WITH THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
(with the Board of Education chairing the meeting)**

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE PUBLIC BUILDING AND SITE COMMISSION AND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Public Building and Site Commission and Board of Education held on Wednesday, February 19, 2014 in the Library of the Reed School, Newtown, CT

The PB&S Commission called their meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Board of Education Chairman Debbie Leidlein called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

PRESENT: BOARD OF EDUCATION: Keith Alexander, Michelle Embree Ku, David Freedman, Kathy Hamilton, Debbie Leidlein (Chair), John Vouros, Ron Bienkowski, and John Reed (Superintendent); PUBLIC BUILDING AND SITE COMMISSION: Robert Mitchell (Chair), Joseph Borst, Anthony D'Angelo, Roger Letso, Pete Samoskevich. **ALSO PRESENT:** Clerk of the Works William Knight, GERALYN HOERAUF from Diversified Project Management, four representatives from Svigals & Partners, Several members of the public and press.

SCHEMATIC DESIGN REVIEW SANDY HOOK SCHOOL PROJECT

Barry Svigals, Julia McFadden and Alana Konefal from Svigals & Partners used a PowerPoint to present three design schemes they prepared for the new Sandy Hook School. Ms. McFadden then moved on to go into greater detail of the Main Street Approach, as selected at the previous joint session. She presented both floor plans and potential elevation studies which are being used to develop the massing and materials for the new school. The drawings were an advancement of the design.

Ms. McFadden also noted that the SHES website is in full operation and the updated plans and other documents will be posted on it. Access to the website can be made through the Town website.

There was a discussion on the planned emergency access from Crestwood. This is intended to be a gated, locked emergency vehicle only access. No access to the site or playing fields could be made by the public.

There will continue to be discussion to discuss the supervision of site access traffic and the bus drop off areas.

Mr. D'Angelo requested that the next site plan indicate the sunrise/sunset orientations.

Ms. Konefal did a more detailed review and description of the developed plans. These showed a room by room layout for the entire building. The plan allows for sections to be closed off for public access activities, limiting access to the entire building.

Mr. D'Angelo and Mr. Vouros suggested that the Main Street be made wide enough to hold multiple functions. This is more than a corridor. We should consider it more as a boulevard. The central core with its stairs should act as a core element tying the circulation of the school together. Added height in sections will also act as focal points.

The treehouses will act as special spaces where teaching may take place or where parents and students can share time.

While there are toilets at the main corridor intersection for all grades, the Pre-K, Kindergarten and first grades will have toilets in the classrooms.

Mr. Svigals discussed the design inspirations for the project character. Sandy Hook and Newtown are characterized by rolling hills, forests, the Pootatuck and spires projecting upward. The designs will look to natural elements, wood and stone as the material palette. The natural environment of the school presents a canopy of trees with a sense of enclosure.

The intent is to create a school with welcoming arms. There will be tremendous light at the front of the building and in the interior of the school. The interior is always orientated so the children know where they are.

The land is lower around the entrances, acting as a security zone, without looking like one.

Food service design for the school will be developed through a consultant to the project team.

Ms. McFadden presented the current time frame. Schematic Design will be completed by March 14, 2014. The cost estimate will be completed by April 7, 2014. There will be alternative costs for the variety of potential materials and security issues.

Mr. Borst motioned for the meeting to be adjourned, seconded by Mr. Letso. The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.