

Town of North Stonington, CT

Ad Hoc School Building Committee

New town Hall Conference Room

Monday, October 5, 2015 – 7:00 PM

Meeting

Minutes

We started by again discussing the overall scope of the project. The feeling moving forward is that we would like to if possible and cost effective, renovate as new all three of our buildings. This will best address our needs while also providing the highest level of reimbursement. Reimbursement is approximately 46% for our town which means when we spend 100,000.00 we will get 46,000.00 reimbursed by the state. There are also additional space waiver savings opportunities that will arise as we hone in on a final project. We are all in agreement that we need to go back to the town with a project that costs less money but addresses the many needs of our schools. We want to prioritize these needs and address the must haves with this project.

We brainstormed on where we thought we could scale back on the project from where it had been proposed last time. Here are those thoughts...

Middle School-

From what we understand, to repair the middle school wing of the school would be just as costly as a rebuild given the major issues that exist there. We would continue with the plan to tear down that wing and rebuild it. We are hoping also to allow this wing to house the 6th grade if possible as this gives them a bit more privacy from the older kids and allows for a more comfortable transition for them. We believe we need 4 classrooms in this wing for the 6th grade. We are hoping by reducing the size of the originally proposed business technology area, music area, and CADD/Graphics area we could fit them in this new wing. We also need to make sure the cafeteria is appropriately sized for our needs of having 2 lunch waves per day and keeping in mind the 6th grade will remain at this complex which differs from the last proposal.

High school-

We would like to ask if building new science labs is the best way to go or if we are better off building new science labs in the current structure of the building, i.e., where they already are. In the event building new ones is the way to go, we want to propose cutting 200 square feet per lab vs. what was proposed last time. We feel there might also be too much media space and too many language rooms so we will also run this by the architect. We need to see if a teachers lounge was needed on the lower level as it was not included in the past proposal.

Elementary school-

We would like to see enclosure of the portico which will then serve as a vestibule area upon entry with a main office in the rear. We would like to pull the computer lab downstairs and potentially split the library or

even utilize some of the current main office or storage space to accommodate the computer lab on the first floor. We want to weigh a new gym vs utilizing the existing gym for gym class. In scenario 1, where we use the existing gym for gym class as well as multipurpose/cafeteria, we would like to take both sets of stairs leading up to the stage and move them into the rooms on the left and right of the stage area to get them off the main floor. We would then move the gym teacher's office into a space where the main office currently sits or in another space that would work. We would want to rubberize or provide some sort of new flooring that is durable and works for both a cafeteria floor and gym floor (Jay is researching). In scenario 2 we would like to look at the cost of building a new gym attached to the building. This would be just a gym with a possible office for the gym teacher. In scenario 2 we still would want to move the stairs leading up to the stage. We also would like to address the storage issues in the school by adding cabinetry where necessary in certain classrooms.

Gymnasium-

We would like to look at correcting the acoustics in the band room in order to continue to use it and not move it to the middle/high school area. We would also like to investigate the most affordable option to "bump out" a wall to accommodate more seating so that we could host championship games at our school. We want to get a better understanding of the title 9 issues that we have heard affect the use of this building as well.

Tunnel-

We want to look into an option that protects our students and provides weather protection going to the schools on both sides of the road. We are not looking for full enclosure but something affordable that will work well. (Jay is looking into options)

All schools-

You will notice we did not discuss fire, air quality, ADA, PCB's, temperature, wiring, or acoustics. This is because with a renovate as new project, all of these items must be addressed automatically. We will be up to code on all items moving in this direction. We also would like to investigate the use of solar if it is appropriate as it is the responsible thing for us to look into and it is in line with the directive of the towns Plan of Conservation and Development which is our guide of progress within the town. We are assuming this also means roofs and windows will be brought up to date as well but will ask this question.

Finally, Walt is getting some information on recent class sizes so we can double check to see that we are indeed building out the right size classrooms specifically at the middle/high school.