

**K-12 Building Committee
Special Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2013
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Members present: Rob Marseglia, Chairman, Julie Holland, Secretary, Deane Beverly,
George Crouse, Faith Leitner, Kathy Sanford, Bill Sternberg and June Strunk

Members absent: John McNally

Recording Secretary: Sandy Tissiere

Guests and Citizens: Van Riley, SPS Superintendent, Bill King, SPS Operations Manager, citizen and
press

Rob Marseglia called the meeting to order at 7:06pm

The agenda did not include approval of the May 14, 2013, meeting minutes. This item could not be added because this meeting was a special meeting. The minutes from the May 14 meeting and June 11 special meeting will be discussed for approval at the next meeting.

Comments from Citizens - None

Discussion

a. Review of Stonington School District Building Needs

Rob Marseglia opened the discussion inviting the committee to comment on what they felt was the purpose of the K-12 Building Committee. He reiterated that the committee was in existence before and the Board of Education asked the Board of Selectmen to reconvene it to examine current schools district needs and create a plan to resolve these needs.

The committee expressed that their purpose was to evaluate all of Stonington Public Schools especially the elementary building needs in Pawcatuck.

Superintendent Riley commented that there was some misconception from the public on his report that there will not be significant growth in enrollment in the next 10 years. Although, there won't be growth, the facilities need updating. West Broad Street School is a beautiful building but is no longer functional for the district needs. He explained that the district has to look at West Vine Street School for expansion; that the children in grades K-4 on the Pawcatuck side of town need to be in one building. Deans Mill School also needs to be brought up to standards.

Superintendent Riley has met with Bill King and Ken Donovan to create K-4 Education Specifications that will be presented to the Board of Education on Thursday, June 13, 2013. If approved, they will be shared with the K-12 Building Committee.

Bill Sternberg commented after the building tour at West Vine Street School, the needs of the elementary schools do not have to do with enrollment but modernization.

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b. Purpose/goal of combining WVSS/WBSS

The committee discussed where it is focusing its efforts. It was concurred that the work that needs to be done to the school buildings in the district is not enrollment based. The SPS buildings need to be repaired/remodeled to foster 21st century instruction and learning. West Vine Street and West Broad Street need to be combined into a K-4 program and West Vine is not big enough. Superintendent Riley stated this message needs to be conveyed to the three boards; the Board of Education, Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen to help them understand why these changes are needed.

Bill Sternberg stated that the schools need a maintenance plan that allows repair or replacement of items, as needed. It was decided that a letter be drafted to send to the three Boards to inform them of what was discovered after touring the sites. June Strunk suggested that the letter start with clarifying the purpose of the committee. Rob Marseglia volunteered to draft the letter.

Discussion of 2014 Stonington Plan of Conservation and Development: The subcommittee of George Crouse, Bill Sternberg, and Rob Marseglia met to draft the K-12 Building Committee-2014 Stonington POCD Input. They used the current town POCD as a basis for format.

The first page needs enrollment information completed as the numbers have changed since the town POCD was created. Superintendent Riley will have someone from the SPS Central Office supply this information.

On the second page, the numbered section is information that has been discussed by the committee.

As the Board of Education is working on their own POCD plan, Faith Leitner suggested she should take the committee's POCD input to the Board for review. The committee discussed that it is a separate entity governed by the Town. Besides being a committee member, Faith Leitner's role is acting as liaison of the Board of Education. June Strunk explained once the Board of Education finished their POCD plan and the K-12 Building Committee finished their POCD Input, both documents will be presented to the POCD subcommittee for consolidation.

Rob Marseglia opened the conversation regarding suggestions to changes that need made to the POCD Input document.

Bill Sternberg suggested that the verbiage be rewritten to be directive of what should be done instead of solutions to the current issues.

The final decision to revise the POCD Input was to flip the information. Starting with purpose, then need, then enrollment figures. The committee discussed finalizing the document via e-mail, however since a July special meeting was scheduled, the consensus of the group was to finalize the document at the July special meeting. Rob Marseglia would like revisions sent to him to be presented to Keith Brynes within the next two weeks.

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Summary of meetings with WBSS/WVSS and DMS: Julie Holland felt that the WVSS/WBSS surveys were not complete and there were staff members who still needed to provide input. She will facilitate collecting these surveys.

West Vine Street Major Points of Concern – Kathy Sanford, Bill Sternberg, Dr. Riley

Size, space, health center, teacher access on weekends, maybe a pod format or grade level wings, age appropriate play areas.

Deans Mill School Major Points of Concern – Bill Sternberg, Rob Marseglia, Dean Beverly

Size of classrooms, dropped ceiling in the gym, conference rooms, ambulance access, outside doors don't lock, permanently installed education equipment, no ventilation in the old wing, old wing has mold issues, window air conditioners run at the same time as dehumidifiers, and room configuration in the new wing.

George Crouse suggested that the district make the schools more community oriented by letting recreational and other programs utilize the buildings as well. He also suggested the use of solar panels. Bill King says that option has been explored at SHS but was not feasible due to the outcropping of the building creating shade.

The staff surveys were discussed next. It was decided that the first compilation would include everything. Julie Holland suggested that a sub-committee be formed to compile and prioritize results. Superintendent Riley generously will allow someone in the Central Office to compile the first results of the survey.

A Special Meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2013

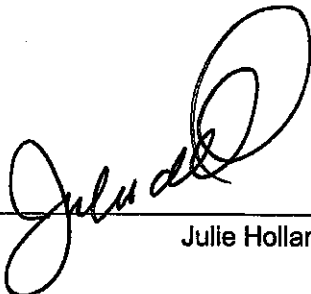
The agenda will include:

- Discuss Compiled Survey Results
- Review Ed Specs
- Vote to approve POCD Results Input

After school is out, Julie Holland will contact other school districts that have new or remodeled schools for tours. The committee will decide by email who is available for the tours.

Comments from Citizens - None

Motion to adjourn was made by Rob Marseglia at 8:39pm
Seconded by George Crouse



Julie Holland, Secretary