

Pre-Referendum High School Consolidation Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2012

A meeting of the Pre-Referendum High School Consolidation Committee was held at Enfield High School Library, located at 1264 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT on March 22, 2012.

CALL TO ORDER Meeting was called to order at 7:09 Pm by Randy Daigle

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches, Mrs. Brennan, Mr. Daigle, Mr. Droney, Mr. Brown, Mr. Sargalski, Mr. Dague, Mrs. LeBlanc,

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Pongratz, Mr. Sepulveda, Ms. Wendy Osada, Mr. Kalagher, Mr. Hunt,

ABSENT: Mr. Schultz, Mr. Stokes

MEMBER COMMENTS

Randy Daigle welcomed Brien Brown, Assistant Principal of Enrico Fermi High School and Wendy Osada, community member and parents, to the Pre-Referendum High School Consolidation Committee. Mr. Brown and Ms. Osada briefly introduced themselves and are happy to be serving on this committee.

Randy asked for progress on If We Do Nothing.

Maureen printed out an update of the comments that members previously made.

Randy explained "If We Do Nothing". A public forum will be done so the public can ask questions, we will answer the questions that everyone has. What are the costs going to be. They are very substantial. Millions of dollars which are non-reimbursable if we do nothing. Will do public presentation. Individuals who are on the committee will be assigned specific questions to answer after the initial presentation. Will give the public 5 minutes to come up and ask questions. Trying to make everyone part of the decision. We don't want public to be uninformed. There is bad press because public is not informed. They don't know the facts. We want to answer all the questions, explain Why Enfield High, Why the Need to Consolidate, Benefits of Doing it All. Maureen is the most experienced in this area, and she accepted to speak on this.

Maureen explains her changes to the presentation. Each member was given a printed copy of the presentation. Committee members will be seated on the floor, not the stage. Suggests a microphone at the end of each aisle.

Art agrees that committee use the pit as the set up area. More accommodating. Gives the impression that we are there to listen. Art agrees to have mics at the end of both aisles. Darryl will bring over the traveling BOE set-up.

Maureen suggests BOE, Town Council, and Department Heads to sit in the front rows.

Randy agrees it will be more inviting. Have 2 mics.

Maureen asks how will you invite them down to the podium. They could raise their hands and you could call on them.

Randy asks how they did it in the past.

Art explains that they sign up with the recording secretary then be called in order. You could state if you wish to speak, please come sign up with the recording secretary. Then names are spelled correctly.

Randy states they would put their name and address down, then when he calls them, they come to the podium, they would reiterate their name and address again.

Pat states what has been done in the past is say "John Smith you're up and so and so you're on deck". Then that person would get up and stand by the microphone and be prepared to speak. Then, state "Joanie Jones you're next". It moves smooth and fast.

Randy agrees then the public is ready.

Maureen states that the 2 mics would work and we'll do a sign-up sheet.

Randy agrees with committee sitting on floor. Asks Steve and John if they are okay with the questions.

John states Cost Of Doing Nothing - Possible loss of accreditation issue. I have brought additional information. Last letter was February, 2010. There are many steps before you lose accreditation. You'd have to go through probation first. It could be years down the road. It could turn off some people if they are savvy about it (loss of accreditation).

Art states 2016-2017 of being in compliance. Is that enough years down the road?

Steve and John state they wanted funding secured by year 5. We're in year 6. They expected secured funding for facility improvements. They may decide not to put us on probation knowing of the consolidation efforts.

Art states by theory, you could be on probation by the end of this year.

Steve states we could.

Maureen asks would it be more suitable to say we risk going on probation.

John states he doesn't know of any schools in the State that has lost accreditation. There are no schools in the State on probation. If we have a plan in place, we can avoid probation and stay on warning status.

Maureen asks should we have "next steps" for us as a committee.

Art states that is why he is here. Doing the schematic design of the high school consolidation and going through the Grant application process is the answer to that.

Randy states that is the next step. That is the reason why we are doing this. To apply for the Grant. We should explain that to the public.

Arts states, you are as the committee. He (Art) is your agent.

Maureen states we could say where we are now, the architects are working on the plan, we're meeting as a committee to give input and we plan on having 3 public meetings. I am focused on them understanding why we are where we are with 2 major decisions already been made.

Randy states that is good if you want to do another topic. "Benefits of Consolidating". We could explain it.

Art states the next time around we'll have more show and tell. This time we are going to listen.

Randy states add another line with 4 or 5 bullets.

John states under Why EHS, architectural experts decided it was the best location. I couldn't find it in the GM2 report.

Art states you won't. Should be something to strike off.

Randy states it was implied based on series of facts. Not the architect's decision. It was the Boards decision based on information they were provided.

Maureen states no architect had come in and said this is the right school. It was decided in another way. It is good to take it off.

Judy states in terms of the Cost of Doing Nothing the State has passed new high school requirements. That's Why Now. It is also a Cost of Doing Nothing. You'll have to implement those requirements twice and neither building will accommodate it. (Refers to handouts passed out.) We only require 3 maths. Will need another math class. Not enough space.

Randy asks how are you going to put it on the slide so it reminds you to speak about it.

Judy states put up High School Requirements, I will know what that is.

Randy asks if it should be under Benefits Consolidation. Where would you put it so you can continue the dialog?

Judy states it's partly The Cost of Doing Nothing. We have to make people understand if we do nothing, nothing to consolidate; we still have a lot we have to do in order to move our students forward toward graduating from high school and meeting the new requirements. NEAYC.

Maureen asks if we should put on the Powerpoint that we will have to deliver the new curriculum twice.

Judy states for both buildings. We don't have sufficient space.

Wendy asks is there any way to demonstrate the costs of choosing not to do the consolidation?

Randy asks in dollar amounts. Yes, we're working on a way to see if we can come up with a dollar amount, but we are not here to justify dollar savings or dollars spent. We're here as an investment to the kids. We're going to financially reap the rewards. Lower utilities, additional classes offered. It's the big picture. Possible loss of accreditation.

Maureen states there is not a lot we can quantify. There is the number that the TC/BOE committee had, 2.1 million operating cost for savings per year by consolidating. If everything was the same and we were able to merge the schools they anticipate saving 2 million dollars every year in staff and operating costs, etc. That is one number. We also know it is about 1.5 million to upgrade the ADA requirements at FHS. Field remediation is going to be over 1 million, and with that once you get going, you don't know where it could go.

Wendy states we need to clarify that just by voting no doesn't mean we don't have to do anything.

Randy states will explain The Cost Of Doing Nothing. It is not a scare tactic. It is the truth.

Tina states if we cannot consolidate the high school and the referendum does not pass in November, we are going to present another referendum to fix both science labs at each school. We did a tour. We should bring the new members on the tour. Something has to get passed or your kids won't be able to graduate.

Wendy states it can't be solely about the kids, in my heart it is all about the kids, but that is not how the entire town feels. Show benefits of doing it or we'd have to start at square one if it doesn't pass.

Tina states if we renovate as new we get 71 cents back on the dollar. If we just revamp the science wings we're not going to get the reimbursement.

Randy states if we don't go for updating, etc. through the referendum we are going to pay 100% of anything we do. We can do more for less.

Judy states it is hard to quantify a lot of it. Go back to the elementary school reorganization. Where are the savings? We may not have saved significant dollars, we saved the things we didn't have to eliminate. Kept reading program. If we stay in two high schools, two buildings we are going to have to invest significant amounts of money to get what we have to. We're going to have to do more with the curriculum. I struggle with how to explain that to people who don't care.

Randy states they will be paying more out of their pocket because we still have a minimum we have to do.

Tina states that the public possibly does not understand the conditions of the science wings and how much money it will cost. Since you're not getting a return from the State it will be more expensive.

Judy states families will not move into the community.

Wendy states fewer taxpayers.

Maureen states there is a segment of the community that does not find it a high concern how our students are doing and what we're giving them for opportunities. We can't change that. Serenity prayer. If you sell it to the population you can get through to, the parents, homeowners, home value. They don't come out to vote. Make it sellable, can't be a Cadillac. Some will vote no.

Tina states there is a segment that doesn't vote.

Brien states he keeps hearing about loss of accreditation. In 40 years I've been involved in the schools in Connecticut I can think of one school that lost its accreditation. They appealed it and they got it back without making improvements. I don't think losing accreditation is a significant

threat. If you portray it is a significant threat, you will have people call you on it. I would be amazed if the Town of Enfield lost its accreditation for its high schools. Scheduling assumptions. I do the scheduling at Fermi and no student had to choose between an AP course and band.

Maureen states she has heard of extra study halls.

Brien states there are study halls but not because we don't have open classes for them. You're still going to have to run your standard college prep courses. Be careful making statements.

Randy states you could also be making statement. Our objective is to do the best and inform the public of any and all possibilities. If your objective is to not have the referendum pass.

Brien states that is not my objective. My objective is if we are going to make statements as a committee, let's make sure the statements are accurate.

Randy agrees.

Maureen states they just changed the wording, probation in front of word accreditation, for that reason.

John agrees. It is only probation. We are at the warning status here at Enfield High.

Tina states the high school consolidation department chair additions were what the department chairs at both FHS and EHS came together and presented to the Strategic Planning. They thought this is something that could happen as a result of the consolidation. They feel there is a need for.

Brien stated they all discussed it with him before they came here.

Tina states as BOE members they do get requests that certain classes be offered or make spaces between AP and band. There is a need. I appreciate all Mr. Brown's hard work on the scheduling, these are facts that have been forwarded not generalizations.

Maureen states at budget time many courses that are specialized the students are fighting for. They may be in danger at budget time. We would have more students in the courses if we consolidated.

Steve states there may be another tactic on the courses, it may be more of a reality at EHS than FHS because we have less staff. Also, our archaic seven period day. In EHS there are conflicts, we can only have 2 sections of a course, enrollment has declined.

Brien states you get more flexibility when combining two schools. More sections to choose. More students will be able to get a higher level French or English. Make accurate statements.

John states not all of these courses are intended to be additions to our course of studies but would supplant our program of studies. Check with department chairs.

Tina states if there was additions and the department chair noted it I added in the high school reform act.

Steve states concert band, jazz, etc. are tough for the Juniors.

Randy states not every one of these courses are going to be offered, possibly we would be able to offer different courses and help scheduling conflicts. Back to what we're going to be presenting, can each member read through and voice which ones you feel comfortable if there were some additional questions. I will be presenting and when the people come up and have specific questions, I'd like to rely on those who have the expertise. If there are questions on this list that you feel you'd be comfortable with.

Maureen asks if the architects will be there to answer any questions.

Randy states they would be valuable.

Architects state typically they would be there at your discretion and if you'd feel comfortable. We're used to doing it.

Maureen asks if they would be in the front row.

Architects state yes.

Randy states he would introduce the committee, then each individual person introduce themselves, we can introduce the architects, then advise that the BOE and TC are also here. Then proceed. Make people aware. This is a team effort.

Judy states she didn't know she was doing all of Why Enfield High. I don't mind talking about the cost of doing things twice. I can address issues regarding the high school consolidation, awaiting information on how many students are currently taking algebra I. How many taking 2 years of a foreign language. Today we don't require a foreign language and 40% take 2 years, and with high school reform 100% will have to take 2 years.

Randy states he would feel comfortable answering anything that has to do with soil, expandability of property at EHS, building design is more conducive for additions, ADA construction needs.

Tina states that Greg was going to do the Magnet Schools.

Randy asks if that would be under the Cost of Doing Nothing? We are losing students to the magnets. He could explain further. He could say we are losing students at a dollar amount.

Maureen states Why Now as competing with the magnet schools. Why now – so we can compete now?

Genaro asks under Why EHS – Architectural experts have decided it is the best location.

Randy and Maureen both state that statement is to be scratched off.

Randy states we should have something to back up the decision based on these reports, numerous information between costs, etc. There is not one answer.

Judy states it is all that we talked about earlier, soil, bond, expandability. All the reasons joined together. When she was on the Board we leaned toward it and the current BOE voted to select EHS.

Pat states he sees on trap and that is the ADA. Do we have any documentation on the ADA upgrades/needs.

Randy states that since we did the additions at EHS we had to bring up ADA, where there was no ADA upgrades at FHS.

Pat asks if we can quantify that? It is going to be asked.

Randy states we could explain.

Maureen stated she added it. She agrees it is not quantified.

Randy states they are not all resolved at EHS. We only resolved what was required to get to this part of the building.

Art states that is why this is called a different building. This is building B.

John states A, C, D still have issues.

Randy states we need to do a dry run. Need to feel comfortable.

Pat states it is a topic in Facebook, the ADA. It will be brought up.

John states he doesn't know if this building is more conducive to expansion because it is reinforced concrete vs. curtain wall construction. Easier for renovation?

Randy states not necessarily. When you have steel and concrete/walls that are structurally supported you could take the bricks down. When every wall at FHS is a bearing wall, you can't move that wall. By this having the structure it does, it is more conducive to add on to, then bearing walls.

Architects state steel frame/concrete frame buildings are easier. Anything can be done with enough money. You will spend more dollars at FHS. It would cost more at FHS to move a wall than at EHS.

Randy states he needs committee members to volunteer.

Tina states she will be responsible for why BOE chose EHS. Why they voted and what the basis was;
landlocked at FHS, remediation, bond.

Wendy asks for a confirmation of the date and time of the community conversation.

Randy states April 3rd, EHS Auditorium, 7:00. Meet in library at 6:00 with BOE and TC to do a dry run and see if they have any questions.

Randy asks Steve and John if they are comfortable with those.

John states Brien will do FHS scheduling and Steve for EHS.

Brien states we want to be accurate. Yes, will do it.

Maureen states we need to be together. We're not talking about FHS scheduling next year. Everyone needs to agree to the facts. We need to all stand behind it. If there are inaccuracies, we need to present this as a consolidation benefit. We are talking about the benefits of one school, not we do this here and we do that there.

Judy states we have to talk as one school. Can't be talking about EHS or FHS. One consolidated high school. Generic issue of scheduling. Possibility of offering courses. Positive terms. More opportunities. One Message. If not, then we're back to Why EHS.

Maureen offers to change it to be more generic. More possibilities and scheduling flexibility and course selection.

Brien states it could say scheduling flexibility. No one can argue that. It is a statement of fact. I would take a guess we would reduce study halls, I would guess that would be accurate. An opportunity for offering more AP courses in a united school that we cannot offer in EHS.

Steve talks about possibility of different scheduling format.

Judy states on the Powerpoint you could put more scheduling flexibility.

Maureen states she could put another bullet that says more course offerings.

Tina states if you say to somebody more scheduling flexibility, unless you can give some examples people don't understand. I didn't understand it until I got on the BOE. AP courses could be offered more than once a day.

Judy states you need to elaborate on that.

Randy asks what is your suggestion on that one? More scheduling flexibility

Maureen states another bullet, possibility of more course offerings. How granular do you want to get.

Randy states we want to inform them. Then if they have questions, they can ask. Facts that will occur.

Do the bullet, then put an a). under it so we can explain.

Judy states if the primary focus is on this maybe you introduce the committee, what our charge is, then we open the floor.

Randy states if people don't ask the questions, they are not going to get the right answers. Then they will go with what they think/heard. By telling the facts, truth, the good and the bad.

Judy states you're going to have to know what more scheduling flexibility means if you have to elaborate on it.

Randy states he can ask another committee member 'do you have anything else to add' when doing the presentation. We will have handouts.

Brien states kids have to drive to the other school to take certain courses. Those type of things will end when we unify the school. Kids want to transfer to FHS for the band.

Maureen states Parody issue. Robotics. Band. Expand upon. French is weak at FHS, strong at EHS.

Randy wants everybody involved including the student liaisons.

Steve states the students could to the band and sports.

Kyle states he transferred to FHS for the band.

Maureen states we could answer our question of expertise, and if another committee member wants to add to it, they could. Reasonable?

Randy agrees.

Maureen states we could say we don't have that answer, but we can get it for you.

Wendy states she doesn't have an area of expertise yet. She has a lot of homework/catch up to do. Asked about slots available for sports. It will be asked. I think we need an expert on that area. It will be a hot topic. Who is going to answer that.

Tina states Wendy is very good at presenting. Is there something that interests you?

Judy spoke about JFK soccer team. Be careful how you explain sports. Enfield students will have a better team.

Pat offered to call Barry Bernstein.

Maureen asked about different class.

Pat will talk to Barry and he will answer the questions at the community conversation.

Maureen reminds committee not to answer questions that you don't fully understand. Also, sports is a budget issue. I feel comfortable saying may be able to offer more sports and intramurals. More levels and more variety depending on budget availability. Contingent on the budget. If people want to get involved in that conversation, they need to take it somewhere else. Not to us. We're not setting the budget. Trying to put "possible" in every bullet.

Randy states we will have 2 representatives Tina and Greg, and if they feel they need back up or support they have the committee there. We don't want to have 25 people answering the questions. We have the expertise of the 2 representatives.

Genaro states we are rehearsing here. We don't know how the Council people are going to respond.

Randy states we are relying on the advisors.

Tina states that she reports back to the Board after every meeting. They know what is being discussed. I appreciate any feedback from them. I will speak to them before the April 3rd meeting. A hot topic might come up could be the choice of school.

Maureen states that anything that is not a mandate is a budget decision. We can't predict that.

Kyle asks about paying for sports. Can Pat ask Mr. Bernstein if they will still have to pay or will it get eliminated once we combine.

Pat states it is a budget issue.

Judy states that has nothing to do with the high school consolidation, it is a policy issue.

Randy states it could come up. On the form that Maureen handed out, we need to find out who is comfortable handling the topics.

Cost of Doing Nothing – Judy

Renovation Needs - Randy

Possible Accreditation Probation – John and Steve

Fines of ADA – Randy

Loss ECS Grants –

Randy states if this does not pass, we'd have to re-establish another committee, go through referendum again, to do upgrades. Now you're looking at 2 years. Is that going to put us in jeopardy.

John states it is still not enough time we're looking at 5 to 6 years beyond before we are start being in jeopardy.

Maureen states the longer we continue to prolong making a decision we eventually would be facing possible loss of accreditation.

John states it takes a lot of in-action.

Randy asks should we touch upon it or move away.

Maureen states there are other factors that contribute into the ECS grant, performance of the district. It's a long shot.

Randy states speaking of the grants, we won't be competing, FHS or EHS?

John states it is already determined what we're getting for next year.

Maureen states out of our 63 million dollar budget, about 29 million is in this ECS grant. About half.

Judy states it is for all the schools.

Wendy asks what are the repercussions of being on probation. Restrictions?

Maureen states one is the cost of having to repair everything, and repairing it not to new, so you'd have to pay more out of pocket. No state reimbursement.

Judy states it affects students ability to get into top tier colleges.

Randy states under Why Now, the State reimbursement - Randy and Art

Construction – Randy, Art and Architects

School Population Decreasing in Town – (Demographics): Art

Judy states we have to be careful with magnet schools, because the intent of magnet schools are public schools. They are not private schools. The intention is not to compete.

Tina states that Greg is going to speak on the magnet schools and I would be happy to step in.

Physical conditions of the school is not acceptable the way they are – (Compliance instead of acceptable).

Art states there are a lot of health, safety, fire, codes we could be more compliant with.

Randy states that the State has passed new high school course requirements – Judy (High School Reform).

Maureen asks if there is anything else she should add to make it more understandable. New more rigorous high school standards.

Randy states Benefits of Consolidation, Schedule Flexibility – Steve, Brien, John
Budget contingent.

Randy states that as far as the students regarding band, sports, can the students get some facts on that. What can be provided?

Maureen states to the students, you have your own personal experience.

Randy asks if students get bussed to the other high school. Add that in.

Judy states be sure to add it in. Kids still at EHS who wanted band but couldn't get to FHS because of transportation.

Tina asks Robert is there anything that interests him?

Steve states he does drama.

Judy asks if he is interested in high school reform? Want to work with her?

Robert states he would work with Judy.

Randy states he would like to utilize the information that Tina gave them. Under Benefits of Consolidating, we could change it and say potential courses.

Tina states you could change 'additions' to 'suggestions', 'possibilities'.

Brien states scheduling flexibility/additional course offerings. Separate bullet .

Randy states when we do the handouts, can we have see possible areas of interest. Do we want to give that out?

Brien states it is more Pie in the Sky. He wouldn't put that out. Maybe list a couple of courses.

Tina states focus on the common core. AP courses in social studies that aren't currently offered. Honors sections. Verbally. They could email a board member.

Randy states that we all agree that we won't hand that out.

Maureen states you have to be careful, could come back to haunt you if it (curriculum) is not delivered.

Randy states we will present this on Powerpoint.

Kyle asks about teacher travel time. Isn't that self-explanatory.

Maureen states we could put reduced travel time for staff between high schools.

Randy states to students if they could do their homework on sports and band research for the next meeting.

Would like to do a dry run next week.

Judy states that we have the date of April 3rd, but the community does not have it yet. It's 2 weeks away.

Randy states we are in the process of talking.

Art states the auditorium is booked and confirmed.

Maureen asks can someone put a flyer together.

Randy states they are working on how to get the word out. Randy will ask Scott about having the Town establish a subcommittee for the use of Fermi. Not our deal. Will find out the procedures.

Judy states that we need to tell the public that there will be a committee about the use of Fermi. Scott needs to be committed to setting it up after the referendum passes.

Randy agrees. No sense of doing it now. Will ask if it has to be a formal request. Will speak to Scott.

Progress on Pre-referendum website through the Town – Art states we have to get a legal opinion on what we can say on the website. After that happens, IT will be our webmasters and all the information that goes on the website will go through the Town Manager's office.

Randy asks how do we advertise for this public forum? Notify the public.

Art states you would want to do that through the Town Manager's office. Put the word out through the BOE and the TC and put it on the Town and BOE websites until we get our own website.

Brien asks if we can do a press release.

Art states you need to check with the Town Manager's office as to who does the press release.

Randy will work on that.

Maureen asks if JFK does flyers?

Judy states the newsletter already went out.

Tina states you could probably get it to the elementary schools.

Art states we need to wait for the bond attorney because we can't use the students as couriers. FOI.

Tina states we are not promoting it. Just information.

Pat states you have to be careful.

Art states we need to wait.

Pat asks if E-TV can scroll it.

Judy offers to talk to Henry to see if E-TV can film it.

Wendy asks about Facebook Page.

Randy states we don't want to have a Facebook page. Uncontrolled dialog.

Genaro asks if anyone checked how Malloy's proposal will affect this process?

Randy states that is the BOE job.

Tina states it will affect the budget, hopefully in a good way. Keeping an eye on it. Representatives Kiner and Tallarita coming to the BOE meeting on Tuesday night. Hoping to find out more on that. Will report on it on Thursday.

NEW BUSINESS

Architect reports that they have compiled information through Art's programming meetings. A very preliminary programming template. Started laying out square footages spaces in total of square footage required for a new consolidated high school. Explained legend. Can start plugging in programming. Looks at the needs of the new consolidated high school. Will refine this document.

Randy asks if the average classroom is 600 square feet.

Architect states they are varying. Some rooms are smaller. Once plan is completed, will run it by Art. It is still a wish list at this point. The last page tells you what your maximum square footage can be before your reimbursement rate decrease. Factor of your school size, amount of grades you have and your highest projected 8 year enrollment at the time of construction. Going off the number of 1,700 which was provided to us as the anticipated level of enrollment when these schools consolidate, it's showing a maximum buildable square footage of 296,000. Circulation is calculated in. Any square footage over that you would start to reduce from your current 71% (+ or -) reimbursement rate. Typically towns don't want to build more than they are going to be reimbursed for. You want to watch that target number. Programming is the driving force. This is the road map of space. We want to be efficient in our design.

Randy states the 296,000 number is to get the maximum reimbursement rate. Anything over that the reimbursement rate will go down. In some cases it makes sense, you're still getting reimbursed, it may not be at 71%, but you're still getting reimbursed. Sometimes it is worth going over. If there are areas where we feel we could benefit, it is worth it.

Brien asks the size of EHS now.

Architects state the actual size of EHS now is 188. Because D wing is coming down we calculated we can add on approximately 135,000 square feet before we get to the break even point. If we're talking about an addition that exceeds 135 we would then be penalized.

Maureen asked if they could explain the difference between the two numbers on the last page.

The architects state the numbers they show, the 241 is compiling what they have added in for the new building, plus the existing. Preliminary total for the new building, plus the circulation factor which is part of the building. The circulation isn't assigned to a certain educational element. Example, if you ask for two 800 square foot classrooms, I can't build a 1,600 square foot building. I have to build corridors, etc. That 1,600 square foot building becomes 1,800. The top one is the straight program of what you are looking for, the bottom one is the circulation, the corridors, the structure, the shafts, the elements, etc. Birds-eye view.

Maureen states with what you are proposing so far, it is really at 314? And 296 is where we can be?

Doesn't include D-wing being taken down.

Architect states correct. D Wing has nothing to do with the reimbursement. The State just looks at the total.

Maureen asks does it include any change to the PE facility?

Architect states it shows a new gymnasium addition. Not all the spaces are filled in. Some numbers will grow, some will fall, this was the wish list. Pool has been discussed, but not favored. But we put it in for the time being.

Maureen asks about the auditorium. Is it not realistic to do 2,000?

Architect states no, not 2,000 occupants.

Randy states we asked what if we did. We didn't want a pool. Was it close to get to 2,000.

Architects states their first charge is take everything that everyone has asked us to include. Then you will see the bottom number. Then there will be discussions and compromises of possible reductions. Right now we're showing you all the "adds", then come down to the reality side.

Maureen asks where does that leave us with the auditorium?

Randy states that we don't want to waste your time, our direction was no pool. A pool could be a target for shooting this down. We'd rather see a bigger auditorium.

Maureen states it could be a problem if it is not bigger.

Art states we are looking at that now. Could make it more functional than it is now.

Architect states we can show what that size would look like, we could do it.

Maureen thinks it is important to the public.

Architect states they are looking at the band issue. Looking at wing of stage. We're trying to wrap our arms around it for a solution. To make it a contemporary theater. We believe it to be achievable. To go from 650 to 2,000 you'd have to implode it and rebuilding it elsewhere.

Steve states it is more realistic to have more seats in there. Not the whole school, but 1 or 2 grades in there.

Architect states they were thinking in the 800-900 range. To fit two grades. Trying to fit the entire school in there for a performance is unique and quite the luxury. We will take your direction. You tell us.

Maureen states it will be an issue.

Judy states the Administration knows. Will it be one class, two classes? The entire band? They need to define what the program of studies requires.

Robert states the occupancy sign says 600.

Architects state it is the original sign and some of the seats were taken away. Down to about 580 now.

Robert states by adding 300, to get to 900, isn't that much bigger.

Architect states anything that is an addition to that space in length or width is an addition. It is landlocked. We see a lot of opportunities to improve it in a cost effective manner. A viable stage. Shooting for a 900 seat auditorium with a larger stage.

Randy states if this gets passed, there will be a building committee formed who will define the exact sizes, exact programs. What we're doing now is very preliminary to get a sense of a dollar amount. The next committee will define that.

Architects are considering it a feasibility study. Can't get hung up on all the little things.

Randy states it is our job to get it passed.

Judy states this committee's job is to get the referendum defined. Our charge is to define the referendum. We'd all like to see it get passed.

Architects states we are working from the program road map.

Art stated it is worked off the Department Head recommendations to the BOE and TC and the data from the GM2 report for classroom utilization. I will go over the classrooms numbers with Steve and Brien.

Maureen asks if the high school reform is being worked into this plan.

Art states as far as the the desk top hard wired computer labs he is trying to get tablets. Get away from hardwire which will not be useful in 2016. Use the cloud instead of wires going down the hallway.

Maureen states she reminds herself this is feasibility. Furnishing and equipment included?

Architects will carry an FFE budget. (Fixture, furniture, equipment). You do get reimbursed for FFE. It could be reduced or eliminated if you decide.

Maureen asks if we went to tablets instead of hard wired is that FFE?

Art states yes. Desktops will be over 12 years old. Not much use at that age. Good time to think about it.

Randy states especially if you're being reimbursed at 70 cents on a dollar.

Randy asks if the architects need anything.

Architects state they are in need of the floor plan from Lawrence. Nothing else from the department heads. Art is giving us all the programming information as he gets it. We will take everything that you guys feed us. We are not aware of anything other than those documents that we are waiting for.

Randy asks if Rick Lawrence is holding anything up.

Art states the electronic CAD files are what they are looking for. Rick was having a difficult time consolidating them. This project is 8 years old and a lot of the stuff was turned over to Colleen. I'm not sure where that traveled on to.

Randy asks if we got electronic as built.

Art states we did, but they are still in the cloud. That is why I went back to Rick to get them reconstructed again. Rick will make 2 disks and I will send one over to the town clerk to have it archived.

Randy states that is what we should do with any of these.

Randy asks the architect is there anything you need from the committee?

Architects state not that they are aware of.

Randy states in regards to User Groups and Liaisons is there anything you want to convey to the architects or the committee.

No.

Tina states she reports back to the BOE on a weekly basis.

NEW TOPICS AND DISCUSSIONS

Randy asks if there is any discussion or questions.

Judy suggests for the next agenda, can the architects go first? It could be up to them.

Randy states that the reason he keeps them here is they will be assisting us with the public piece.

Architects state they are not bored. It is helpful to hear all of the discussion. They don't mind being here. Their families are used to it.

GOOD TO THE ORDER

Pat tells the committee that his daughter was accepted to college.

Wendy became a grandmother 2 months ago.

Chris tells the committee he has a 20 month old, and twins 7 months old – 3 girls.

Meeting ends: 9:25 PM