

JFK Pre-Referendum Committee

March 29nd 2017

JFK Middle School Library

Called to order: at 6:32 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Mark Gahr, Mary Keller, Joseph Muller, Trish Neild-Barry, Carmen Nuccio, Chris Rutledge, Steven Sargalski, Jason Walsh and Vincent Weseliza.

The following guests and liaisons were welcomed:

Tom Arnone and Scott Kaupin from the Enfield Town Council
Walter Kruzel, Tina LeBlanc and Tim Neville from the Enfield Board of Education
Mike Szlosek from the Enfield Department of Public Works
Chris Nardi from Silver Petrucelli & Associates

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: A motion to approve meeting minutes from 3/22/2017 was made by Mr. Muller and seconded by Mr. Weseliza.

Ms. Keller clarified that “Parks and Recreation” is actually “Recreation”. “Parks” is under buildings and grounds.

Tim Neville clarified that last week filling in for Tina Lablanc.

The motion was approved: 8-0-1 (Steve Sargalski abstained)

Presentation from Committee Guests:

A. Silver, Petrucelli & Associates

Following the approval of minutes, the Committee welcomed Mr. Nardi from Silver, Petrucelli & Associates.

Mr. Nardi advised F&O was on site today sampling exterior caulking. As results become available, the committee will be updated.

Mr. Nardi also advised of a meeting with Central Office and Mr. Sargalski to further discuss the space programming needs. With revisions, the Space Program Template presently shows approximately 213,000 sq. ft. A reduction of 30,000 sq. ft. (or 21,000 sq. ft. of programming space) is needed to get down to the level that would allow for maximum reimbursement.

A summary of revisions made as the result of the aforementioned meeting are as follows:

Guidance: Eliminated the computer lab as other labs will be available. The sq. ft. of the career center was also reduced.

Science: Size of existing science classrooms will remain constant. Additional storage and prep-room space was removed from existing classrooms. One lab would be added.

Math: Sq. ft. of new classrooms reduced from 850 to 760.

English: Sq. ft. of new classrooms reduced from 850 to 760.

Social Studies: Sq. ft. of new classrooms reduced from 850 to 760.

World Language: The classrooms will still be moved from portables into the building. The World Language lab is still desired. The number of new classrooms was reduced from three to one.

Special Education: Regarding a dedicated OT/PT room, there would be the addition of one at 450 sq. ft.

Reading: The two additional general classrooms and the one assisted reading classroom were deemed unnecessary in light of the educational needs in concert with the addition of World Language space.

Art: No changes

Tech Ed: No changes except as it related to organize the OT/PT space.

Family & Consumer Science: No changes.

Computer Technology: Eliminated the computer classroom addition as it can be shared with Family & Consumer Science.

Music: The additional general music classroom is not needed. Instead of individual offices there will be one shared office for music dept.

Auditorium: Central Office indicated a desire to keep the auditorium in the same space and expand if possible. Mr. Nardi mentioned the difficulties in expansion. Eliminated the added square footage and the stage as it will be difficult to expand in current location.

Physical Education & Health: Recommendation to move auxiliary gym back to main gym and find a new home for project adventure space. If this is done the project adventure space can be increased while also giving back teaching space to Physical Education without having to build a new gym. Pool and pool equipment moved back into the template as this should be a community and town decision. Health classrooms were reduced from three to two. The cardio-fitness room was also removed.

Locker Rooms: If the pool stays, then there is no benefit in rebuilding the locker rooms and, rather, renovation would be the intention. The Officials' Offices were removed. The team locker rooms were kept but the individual toilets and showers from said locker rooms were removed.

Library/Media Center: Removed the two offices. The talented and gifted office would be moved and that space returned to Library / Media Center staff. This would also allow for flexibility on the placement of book storage. The maker space was also eliminated.

Cafeteria / Food Service: No changes.

Custodial: No changes.

Miscellaneous Items: The three computer labs were renamed to innovation & collaboration labs and the square footage slightly increased.

Totals: 240,000 sq. ft. reduced to 213,000 sq. ft. which is still 30,000 sq. ft. over the maximum allowed by the State before reimbursement is reduced.

The Chair commented that an additional reduction of 21,323 sq. ft. is needed to bring it to a level where maximum reimbursement is possible. This calculation takes into account the circulation factor.

Mrs. Neild-Barry asked about the possibility of building a new addition for the auditorium and if the present auditorium space could then be used for classrooms. Mr. Nardi said this is possible but later commented on the difficulty.

Mr. Muller asked Mr. Nardi to provide possibilities and Mr. Sargalski asked about seeing associated costs.

Mr. Nardi confirmed that auditorium seating and the pool get reimbursed at 50% of max.

Ms. Leblanc brought up discussion on ensuring school is big enough for possible future number of children.

Mr. Weseliza presented question on storage, looking to clarify how we are going to increase storage in this plan for classrooms.

Mr. Sargalski commented how the present look is storage closets but looking for casework built-ins and cabinets along walls.

The Chair also noted the shared book room would elevate some storage concerns in the classrooms.

Mr. Nardi also commented on the custodial space having storage for items currently stored around school/hallways.

Public Communications:

The Chair opened the floor to public comments.

Gina Sullivan suggested putting space on the town website to host information received/reviewed during the meetings. Shared that the minutes are great but having a space to share as much information as possible would be better. Having good communication on this project would be helpful so others can be informed.

Old Business:

Nothing to address

New Business:

A. Resolution to Approve JFK Middle School Program Space Requirements:

Whereas the JFK Pre-Referendum Committee, recognizing this as a critical step in the development of conceptual plans, and appreciating the work put in by Silver, Petrucelli & Associates in conjunction with program coordinators, administration and Central Office staff, stands resolved in its approval of the Space Program Template.

Motion: A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Mr. Muller and seconded by Ms. Neild-Barry.

Ms. Keller asked if we should discuss either narrowing it down or moving forward with the plan as is. Mr. Nardi confirmed we can make changes later as needed but the more the plan is refined now the quicker the process will move. The Chair advised that if there is a section we are looking to remove then someone would make a motion to amend as a procedural standpoint. Mr. Kaupin assisted in explanation of motions and voting needs for changes in the plan.

Motion: A motion to amend the resolution by removing, from the Space Program Template, the Boys and Girls Home and Visitor locker rooms was made by Mrs. Neild-Barry and seconded by Ms. Keller.

Discussion on the Amendment:

Discussion centered around what the space could be used for and on shower availability. It was advised that the space would not be used for classrooms but could be converted into storage. Additionally, it was mentioned that shower space in the existing locker rooms would be necessary if the pool is kept.

The motion to amend was approved: 8-1-0 (Mr. Weseliza dissented).

The Chair made note that it would be a good time to discuss the pool because should the outcome change to it being eliminated it would change the plan.

Open discussion on the pool by the committee. Mr. Nardi advised that if the pool is removed it would free up over 6,000 square feet. It would also let us renovate that section of the building. It would be more costly but give more flexibility in how the PE and Locker room areas. Conversely, if the pool is kept that means additions may be needed elsewhere. In the end it would be less expensive to eliminate about 7,000 square feet from the plan.

Mr. Arnone made note that we need to remember the “sales” point of having a pool. Mr. Neville commented that it’s a community issue as others use it and the needs of the community should be considered.

Ms. Neild-Barry inquired on last year’s pool usage. Ms. Keller advised the pool is used for summer camp and swim lessons. In the fall winter there are 6-8 week lessons. However, due to a staff shortage, these fall-winter lessons did not occur. Ms. Keller also advised of use for Special Olympics. Mr. Sargalski advised robotics team competitions may use it on a Saturday, but there is currently no other education use. Mr. Weseliza noted that if this pool goes away the town will likely not be able to replace it in the future as it’s costly.

Motion: A motion to amend the resolution by removing the pool was made by Mrs. Neild-Barry. With no second, Mrs. Neild-Barry withdrew her motion.

Mr. Kaupin reminded the committee that the committee does not have to make a final decision to remove the pool this evening. Mr. Nardi advised that he can provide a plan showing both removing and keeping the pool for further review and discussion.

Mr. Kruzel requested the committee speak next about the gym.

Mr. Weseliza questioned going forward with what we have vs. cutting back items to meet the max allowed for 70% reimbursement.

Mr. Weseliza commented that he is not willing to shave anything off at this point based on what was just presented as it's the request of the teachers and he would like to see the plan based on this. Mr. Arnone agreed.

The Chair commented that the requests were asks and that it would be irresponsible to put forward a referendum with such a price tag that it would not pass which is why we need act in a responsible manner. The chair also commented on the need to get the conceptual plans finalized by the end of April to meet state guidelines.

Mr. Nardi advised the committee that if square footage reductions are being considered, then it would be best to focus on items \geq 500 square feet.

The Chair brought up discussion on kiln/art room at 1700 sq. feet. No motion was made.

Additional discussion provided clarification on what project adventure was. Mr. Sargalski explained the program and how it was part of the curriculum.

Ms. Neild-Barry brought up the 3 copy rooms and Mr. Nardi explained the need. Mr. Sargalski explained that there was a confidentiality component.

Ms. Keller requested speaking about the auditorium and discussed whether more seating could be added. Mr. Nardi said the walls are load bearing and it would be very difficult to move out and add additional stage and seating space. Mr. Nardi advised it would be best to first decide if the auditorium stays in its current location or not. Mr. Nardi advised he will draft two plans one keeping it and one moving it so the committee can review and make a decision.

Mr. Neville asked if it would be best to have Mr. Nardi come back with design plans first so they can be reviewed then addressed? Mr. Nardi said he would.

The Chair asked if anyone would like to make a motion to remove the additional science labs space.

Motion: A motion to amend the resolution to remove the additional science classroom and lab space was made by Mrs. Neild-Barry. The motion failed to receive a second and was hence not considered.

The committee discussed getting plan visualizations from Mr. Nardi as that would be beneficial in determining further space changes.

Motion: A motion to amend the resolution to remove the shop room and custodial break room from the Space Program Template was made by Mr. Muller and seconded by Mr. Nuccio.

Discussion on the Amendment:

Mr. Gahr noted about the changes taking away storage. Replies noted extra storage may be created by eliminating the home and visiting team locker rooms. Additional discussion took place on space needed for custodial staff to have a break room and why the existing faculty lounge was insufficient.

The motion was withdrawn by Mr. Muller and Mr. Nuccio.

In reviewing the male and female toilets by auditorium, Mr. Nardi explained the space request as there are none currently in the hub. Discussion points involved possibly making the new toilet areas into changing room areas as well.

The Chair asked the committee if at this time are there any other areas to discuss to remove at this time. No other items were mentioned.

Motion: A motion to call the question was made by Mr. Muller and seconded by Mr. Walsh.

Before moving to a vote, the Chair read the motion as amended:

Whereas the JFK Pre-Referendum Committee, recognizing this as a critical step in the development of conceptual plans, and appreciating the work put in by Silver, Petrucelli & Associates in conjunction with program coordinators, administration and Central Office staff, stands resolved in its approval of the Space Program Template with the following amendment:

- Removal of the space for the Boys and Girls Home and Visitor Locker Rooms

The motion was approved: 9-0-0

B. Items for 4/5/2017 Meeting Agenda.

Items on the next agenda will involve the review of new materials provided by Silver, Petrucelli & Associates.

Committee Comments:

Mr. Muller asked that Mr. Nardi also bring along a plan of what the current school looks like. Mr. Nardi said he would bring this along with plans for review.

Mr. Sargalski asked Mr. Nardi to also provide information related to the fields.

Ms. Neild-Barry asked if plans could be brought for other middle school auditoriums for comparison.

Mr. Nuccio commented that striving for a reasonable final post-reimbursement cost for this project is important.

The Chair made a comment that he had heard back from the Town office, Maya Matthews, that there will shortly be a space on the website for information to be stored for all to see. He also confirmed that we are still on a weekly meeting schedule.

Adjournment:

Motion: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Muller and seconded by Mr. Walsh.

The motion was approved: 9-0-0

The JFK Pre-Referendum Committee stood adjourned at 8:53 PM

- EMR