

Pre-Referendum High School Consolidation Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 3, 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 May 3, 2012.

1.     **CALL TO ORDER**             The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by  
Randy Daigle

2.     **ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**     Brien Brown, John Dague, Randy Daigle, Pat Droney,  
Jamie Dzyzga, Kyle Kalagher, Tina LeBlanc, Wendy  
Osada, Steve Sargalski

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**     Judy Apruzzese-Desroches, Maureen Brennan,  
Robert Hunt, Greg Stokes

**ALSO PRESENT:**         Art Pongratz, Genaro Sepulveda, Silver/Petrucelli &  
Associate Representative

3.     **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to accept Minutes of April 19, 2012 by Pat Droney  
Seconded by Kyle Kalagher  
Motion Passes by a show of hands

4.     **OLD BUSINESS**

Randy opens the floor to discuss community conversation of April 26, 2012. Kyle comments that it went well.

Pat Droney received comments from people who weren't there. Positive feedback. Very beneficial to have community conversations. Committee did a very good job.

Randy received a lot of compliments about the architects. They knew their stuff. We need to keep pushing the facts out. People now have the facts. He commends the committee on their work.

Art asks if anyone asked about the money.

Pat states that people want the pool.

Steve thinks it was a great evening. We got the message out. Next step is to speak to the educational side, the curriculum. Tina did a great job speaking to the community about the curriculum.

Randy agrees Tina did a great job. He received a lot of compliments about her. Randy has a call into Susan at the Senior Center to get a group together to do a presentation. It is also a good idea to go to the PTO's. Asks the architects if they are available to speak to the groups during the day.

Architects are available.

Steve asks if there is a taxpayer group in town that we could speak to.

Pat states there is a group.

Randy states someone also mentioned speaking to the Rotary Club.

Wendy states her schedule is flexible during the day if she can be of any assistance.

Architect states Rotary, Churches, PTO's are good to speak to. Hit the demographics of the elementary school parents. Will go to as many or few as the committee needs.

Brien stated he showed some students who asked to see the plans. Possibly get a model so the kids could see it, then they would bring the information home. We want to build interest.

Architect states we can make presentations to be posted in the schools. That is the next logical step. Public libraries, senior centers are a great place to generate interest.

Wendy states the grammar school parents are the ones we want to reach out to.

Randy states it is the High School Seniors who will be eligible to vote. That is a couple hundred kids to get excited.

Brien said the kids are asking what will they name the new school.

Kyle states he thought it would be Enfield High. Why would you want Fermi High in Enfield?

Steve states that the Town will name it.

Brien states Enrico Fermi Learning Center at Enfield High School. Names are emotional.

Steve stated the name, the mascot and the colors are huge.

Brien states show them the building to develop pride.

Randy asks if there a way to get to the high school seniors?

Architect states that is a great audience, freshman through seniors.

Randy asks if we can do an in-school assembly.

Wendy states wait until September.

Brien states you would have to do it almost immediately, because final exams are coming up.

Randy states he will ask Dr. Gallacher about it.

Architect states he has spoken at schools at night, a little more informal. Invite them to come see the plans. Have a break out where they feel comfortable coming up and talking to us.

Steve states the civics teachers could talk about the referendum process.

Pat asks what do you think about Asnuntuck's radio station for public access?

Randy likes the idea. Can Pat pursue that?

Steve asks if Dean can do an E-TV 30-45 minute spot? Loop it during the day.

Brien asks if anyone has talked to Tim Jensen?

Randy asks if the teachers are in agreement?

John states EHS D-Wing staff are for it.

Jaime states FHS staff is mixed. Some are for it. Some want to hear more.

Randy asks how to we get them to hear more? Is there an avenue where all the teachers will be in one place?

Steve states it is tricky, because staff meetings are curriculum time.

Brien states put models up where teachers can see it, and bullet points.

Steve states possibly one day in late August, Dean can come speak to staff.

Brien states that some people don't think it is going to pass.

Steve states once the teachers grab onto it, the kids will too.

Randy asks how do we get the teachers on board? We can start doing posters and pictures, bullet points.

Steve states that E-TV is a great idea.

Pat asks if there are staff meetings?

Steve states it is used for curriculum. Only have May left. June is for graduation.

Randy asks if you can hand out fact sheets during staff meetings?

Brien states put them in the faculty room.

Kyle states what about sending them to the student's homerooms?

Tina states that Scott Kaupin and Tim Neville have gone to the Senior Center and plan to go again soon.

Randy states that Dean is going with them. Going to school PTO's is a good idea. Pat is going to pursue Asnuntuck radio station.

Tina asks is there something more you would like to see from us, the Board of Education?

John states nervous about promoting the referendum to students. Need to be careful. Need clarification. Very touchy area.

Brien states he will only answer questions about it.

Steve states meeting with the Seniors is good.

Wendy states remind the seniors they need to register to vote.

Dean asks if there is any movement on creating a mailer? Tri-fold. Give them a data sheet. Mail to taxpayers in town. Expense comes with that. We can help create the tri-fold.

Randy states he will talk to Scott Kaupin about it.

Art states we should pursue the tri-fold. It could be used as a handout.

Brien states a community group may fund the mailer.

Tina states EFEE is a group.

Randy tells Tina that a lot of the committee received positive feedback on her presentation at the community conversation.

Randy asks if anyone has tried the website? He will call Debbie in the morning.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

Randy asks in regards to the bullet points, is this is for the board we will be leaving around town, and in the trifold?

Art states it has to accurately reflect the project. The bullet points need to concentrate on the educational side, not just the costs.

Randy states we should touch upon it. He asks Steve if he has been working on bullet points.

Architect states include what the cost will be per individual household. Big, bold, graphic and text rich. Top five bullets – not paragraphs. Put in what you want to drive home.

Steve states he has some with him tonight. Monetary (71% reimbursement), 6<sup>th</sup> highest in the State. Now is the time. Construction cost lowest at this time. All students on one site. Swing space with new addition. All academics on the STEAM and A side. Larger cafeteria.

Randy asks if we want to go through it here tonight or through email to the committee.

Brien states the scheduling benefit is an important bullet point.

Wendy states we could get the whole list together then we could vote on the top five.

Randy asks if Wendy wants to work on it with him.

Randy states there are so many different facebook pages out there. Do we want to put it on there? There are a lot of questions. Possibly put the flyer on there?

Art states that the Resolutions are on the BOE agenda for May 8 and Town Council on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Randy asks if Dean needs to go?

Art states he goes alone and explains that this is for the enabling resolution to apply for the Grant.

Randy asks if it is an opportunity to get information out to the public?

Tina states people watch the BOE meetings on E-TV.

Randy states he will put a request in for Dean to go to the next BOE and TC meetings.

Randy asks for a classroom utilization report update. There is a handout and the numbers are great.

Steve states the classroom utilization is at 85% - 86% utilization.

John states it does not include computer labs, could be used for classrooms if enrollment rises.

Architect states utilization average is 75-80%. Science always maxes out.

Brien asks about the number of rooms allotted in math, world language, science and tech ed. and the new requirements, is there enough room? What if Magnet students return? You will need 4 assistant principal offices.

Art states you are scheduling for 1,700 kids.

Dean states it will be the tightest on the first year of opening and it will get better each year after. There are 4 assistant principal offices.

John states there will be one more room available in the tech ed due to a staff member staying in one of the B classrooms in a computer lab.

Wendy asks if the proposed teacher count will go up with the new requirements.

Randy states Art received the numbers from the department chairs.

Wendy wants to accurately count the number of staff.

Brien states some departments may grow and some may not.

Randy states interests (courses) change. It is a great report on utilization.

Architect states we are not overbuilding, we can justify by showing the numbers and we are in line of where we should be.

Randy asks Art to give a brief report on the process and meeting with the local officials.

Art replies he had very good response from the Assistant Superintendent, Superintendent, BOE Chairman. We are meeting our customer's needs. They were very pleased. Met with Enfield Fire Department. Talked about a fire hydrant at the east end of the STEM building, concerned about a dead end corridor in the music wing and exit in the back of the band room, even though we are still in schematic phase. Planning & Zoning, Wetlands asked for ideas on water control/retention/detention, storm water control islands, drainage. Art asks Dean if he has ever used permeable pavement? Everyone interested in roofing. Again, very finite. Traffic issues. Building department agreed on partial CO's.

Dean states permeable pavement does not hold up very well in New England. Have not had a lot of luck with it. It is asphalt that will soak water through it. Freeze/thaw problems. Leary of using it. There has been some failure of the product throughout Connecticut. Dean explains TCO's and CO's.

Art states UCONN has permeable pavement and it looked terrible after one winter.

Randy agrees. Not a New England product.

Art continues that one of the retired building officials spoke about the utilities. Someone brought up D-Wing as storage. Still would require sprinklers. It would be an eyesore compared to the rest of the building.

Architect states you would be penalized in square footage to use the D-Wing as storage.

Art continues the Health Department was pleased with the concept plan. They realize it is in the schematic phase. Everyone requesting that when the CMR is on-board, they want to be introduced.

Randy asks for Architect's Report.

Architect distributes a graph of dates and scheduled tasks. Beginning to schedule the process. Construction Manager will estimate the job. Approximately in May/June, 2014 CM begins construction.

Art asks about turn-around time from the State.

Architect states it should be 30 days or you have the option of going to local review. You still have to go through them. Any project of this scale will go over the 30 days. You can go to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party. This is usually about a 2 month process. Architect has names of reviewers (3<sup>rd</sup> party) if needed. CM is responsible for producing the building. Construction start date is approximately June, 2014. No link between architect and CM. Explains the phases of construction. Completion target is beginning of school year of 2017.

Art states he appreciates all the work and effort the architect has put in.

Tina's concern is the high school graduation requirements in 2016 and not being fully functional until 2017. Is there a chance we could move all the students here?

John states it is the course not the equipment or the facility. They will still be getting their courses, math, science, etc. at Fermi so there wouldn't be an issue.

Randy thinks the State may have a grandfather clause for us since we have a plan in place.

Tina states that the committee has to give the charge to Dr. Gallacher to move forward with the two principals to come up with a timeline of the transition of students. From what I hear from Dr. Gallacher, he needs to hear from the committee.

Wendy asks if there is going to be a transition or is it an all at once plan? Do you wait until 2017-18 school year.

Tina states that is something Dr. Gallacher and the two principals will discuss and come up.

Art will give a copy of the architect's graphs of timeline and scheduled tasks to Dr. Gallacher.

Wendy states the way she understands it, there is no reason to move students over until you are ready to combine the two high schools.

Tina states the committee needs to present that to Dr. Gallacher.

Randy thanks the architect for their hard work on the graphs and their explanations.

**USER GROUP COMMENTS**

None

**GENERAL COMMENTS**

None

Motion to adjourn by Pat Droney

Seconded by Wendy Osada

Motion passes by a show of hands

Submitted by: Ellen Smith, Recording Secretary