

Rochester School Board / Rochester City Council
Joint Building Committee
School Department Boardroom
August 16, 2023
6:00 p.m.

Agenda

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of the July 12, 2023 Minutes
3. Site Update
4. Owners Representative Report
5. Contract Execution
6. Other
7. Public Comment
8. Adjournment

Members:

School Board Members:

Sarah Harrington, Chair
Matthew Beaulieu
Anne Grassie
Paul Lynch
Matthew Pappas

City Council Members:

Donald Hamann, Vice Chair
Steven Beaudoin
Paul Callaghan
Alexander de Geofroy
Amy Malone

City of Rochester
Joint School Board – City Council Meeting
School Department Board Room
July 12, 2023
6:00 p.m.

DRAFT

School Board Present:

Mrs. Sarah Harrington, Chair
Mr. Matthew Beaulieu
Mrs. Anne Grassie
Mr. Matthew Pappas

City Council Present:

Mr. Donald Hamann
Mr. Alexander de Geofroy
Mr. Steven Beaudoin
Mayor Paul Callaghan
Mrs. Amy Malone

Others Present:

Mr. Kyle Repucci
Ms. Ingrid Nichols
Mr. Gordon Leedy
Mr. Dave Totty
Ms. Cherie Mann
Guests and Public

Mrs. Harrington called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Members and guests participated in the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hamann moved, seconded by Mr. Beaulieu, to approve the May 24, 2023 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Program Update

Ms. Ingrid Nichols gave the Committee a handout of the program that was originally sent to the NH Department of Education for approval; the plan that was developed for the DOE application. She reviewed it for the Committee and explained that now the plan will be tweaked to fit in the context of the building site. It will be a two story building and will be the largest elementary school in the district. Mr. Repucci stated that the plan would be posted on the School District's website.

Site Update

Mr. Gordon Leedy explained that the site is being surveyed and he gave the Committee an update. He anticipates having a draft survey within a week to ten days. A scope for a traffic study will also be developed. They are in the mode of gathering information for that now. A lot of factors are taken into consideration in a traffic study. Discussion ensued.

OPM Recommendation

Mr. Dave Totty reviewed the four firms and recommended Gordon Bristol for the Project Manager for the duration of the project.

Mr. de Geofroy moved, seconded by Mr. Beaudoin, to accept Gordon Bristol for the Project Manager. The motion carried unanimously.

Next Steps

Mr. Totty stated that Harvey Construction was selected as the construction manager but a contract hasn't been signed yet. Ms. Nichols shared that we had the first public forum. The second one will be in July and another one in August. Some zoom meetings for teachers are being scheduled as well. After they receive the construction budget from Harvey Construction, the plan is to start building in Spring 2024. Mr. Leedy explained next steps. Mr. Repucci stated that at the August JBC meeting, they will have the real design of what the school will look like to share with the Committee.

Other

Mr. Beaudoin stated that he would like the JBC agendas and minutes posted on the city website in addition to the school district web site. Mr. de Geofroy stated that he would like to see that as well.

Mr. Pappas stated that he is concerned about the inaccuracy of information being shared on social media.

Mr. Beaulieu stated that the public forums are great but he is also concerned about information being shared inaccurately. The meetings are recorded and posted on the web site for everyone to view.

Mrs. Harrington reminded the public that this has been a ten year project and they have looked at all possibilities for a building site and a feasibility study was done.

Mr. de Geofroy reminded the public that if they want their ideas to be considered by the Joint Building Committee, it is best to come to the meetings or connect with committee members.

Public Comment

Tabatha Davis, Rochester resident, expressed concern about the proposed land being wet land. She also stated that students living within a mile of an elementary school are walkers so a sidewalk will be needed. She shared questions for the committee for clarification; what grades will the new school be for? What does an outdoor classroom mean? Was all the city owned property looked at?

Mark Perry, Rochester resident, shared his many concerns with the wet land and water drainage. He also asked the Committee how the cost for putting in a sidewalk would affect the budget.

Darlene Morris, Rochester resident, shared her concern with committee members' view of the comments on social media. She feels that the public is not getting information about meetings and public forums and that the JBC Committee needs to be transparent. The public has to look for the information on the School District website. She also expressed her concern with the water issue on the proposed building site.

Colby Jerron, Rochester resident, shared his many concerns with the proposed building site being wet land. He also expressed his concern about the wildlife being affected, cars idling while waiting in line and the road being dangerous. He strongly recommended that every committee member walk the land before the next JBC Committee meeting.

Kathy Baker, Rochester resident, shared her concern about wildlife being disrupted and how maintaining the roads by salting them will affect the land. She feels that trails should be put in for people to enjoy. She also expressed her concern with the land being wet, how the drainage issue will affect the residents, as well as the safety of Salmon Falls Road. She urged the Committee to plan the safety of the road and think this whole project through completely before building a school there.

Adjournment

Mr. Beaulieu moved, second by Mrs. Grassie to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kyle M. Repucci
Board Secretary