



Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District

Office of the Superintendent
306 Main Street, Spencer, Massachusetts 01562
Telephone (508) 885-8500 * Fax (508) 885-8504

Paul S. Haughey, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

School Building Committee Meeting Minutes January 16, 2020

School Building Committee Members present: Paul Haughey, Jason Monette, Elizabeth York, Mark Carpentier, David Joyce, Anne Gobi (arrived at 6:15 p.m.), Heather Messier, Mike Ethier, Wendy Berthiaume, Donnie Berthiaume, Gary Suter, Eric Hevy, Robert Parsons, and Kara Westerman

Others present: Steve Hemman and Jay Barry

I. Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. Approve Minutes

Motion to move that the School Building Committee vote to approve the meeting minutes of 12/19/19 was made by Mr. Monette and seconded by Mr. Berthiaume. All Voting Members present agreed.

III. Approve bills and orders

Nothing to approve at this time.

IV. Report from OPM

- Update from MSBA - Some School Building Committee members met with the MSBA team on December 18, 2019 in Boston to review the regional agreement status and how enrollment numbers were determined for a new project. Members also discussed the 107 new building permits in Spencer since October 2019.

V. Report from Architects

No report at this time.

VI. Old Business

Response from MSBA on enrollment options

Original projection for grades 9-12 was 225. The new projection is for 265 students.

The second part of the conversation revolved around the upcoming board meetings in February or April. The MSBA requested the District's presence at one of them. Dr. Haughey opted for the April meeting.

Mr. Monette asked if it was typical to follow up with the MSBA to work towards a higher enrollment number. Dr. Haughey stated the District has the right to appeal.

Discussion ensued regarding school choice numbers.

Mr. Hemman stated the District needed to focus on students who left in the last few years and why there was an exodus. He indicated the MSBA is concerned about overbuilding.

Mr. Monette asked what the number meant; for example, can the District renovate the whole school but only get a portion paid by the MSBA.

Mr. Carpentier asked if there were any other districts that the Committee could gather data on that have been through a similar situation.

Dr. Haughey asked for the bottom number the Committee is willing to go into Boston for the board meeting in April.

Mr. Barry stated the grades 9-12 option is the best because assessments to include grade 8 from Knox Trial would be difficult to account for; and, to stay on message.

Mr. Suter recused himself from the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Ms. York voiced concerns about the C Building. If/when the District goes to renovate the high school, C Building will be costly. Mr. Hemman replied the District would keep the size, but want to renovate.

Ms. Gobi asked Mr. Hemman and Mr. Barry for their best guess on how far the needle could be moved. Mr. Hemman guessed 350-375.

Mr. Ethier advocated for having solid school choice numbers for the last five years.

Motion to move that Dr. Haughey respond to the MSBA on behalf of the School Building Committee that the Committee unanimously votes to decline accepting the enrollment numbers as too low and not accurately reflecting what the District is seeing for enrollment at David Prouty High School was made by Mr. Berthiaume and seconded by Mr. Carpentier. All Voting Members present agreed.

Dr. Haughey will send an email offering the MSBA to come to the District or Committee Members going to the MSBA.

VII. New Business

There was no new business.

VIII. Other Business to come before the Building Committee

There was no other business.

IX. Next meeting dates

The next meeting will be held on February 27, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Innovation Lab at the high school.

X. Executive Session

There was no executive session.

XI. Adjourn

Motion to move that the Committee vote to adjourn at 6:58 p.m. was made by Mr. Monette and seconded by Ms. Messier. Vote was unanimous.

Submitted by:

Melissa Farrow