

Greenwich Board of Education Minutes of the GHS Front Entry Committee Meeting

DATE: July 15, 2021

LOCATION: Town Hall and Virtual via Google Meet

TIME: 8:00 am

Committee Members Present:

Stephen Walko - Chairman

Jake Allen- Vice Chairman

Maureen Bonanno-Secretary

Ashley Cole

Ralph Mayo (GHS Principal)

Louis Contadino

Stephanie Cowie

Christina Downey (BOE)

Megan Galleta

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Steven Swidler (BOE Staff)

Craig Amundson (RTM)

Will Schwartz (DPW)

Dennis Yeskey (P&Z)

Others Present:

David Stein (Silver Petrucelli)

Dean Petrucelli (Silver Petrucelli)

Not Present:

Leslie Moriarty (BET)

Tom Bobkowski (BOE - Central Office)

Dan Watson (BOE- Central Office)

Lauren Rabin (Board of Selectmen)

1. Meeting was called to order by Mr. Walko at 8:06 a.m
2. The purpose of today's meeting is to review the 5 schemes presented by Silver Petrucelli at the July 7th meeting.
3. Mr. Walko noted that some committee members were unable to attend this meeting, however, the committee members emailed questions and comments on the schematics presented ahead of the meeting today. In summary, there was a general trepidation regarding the students entering into a side entrance and that there should be some overhang for weather protection.

4. The meeting was then opened up for comments and questions.
 - Ms. Downey inquired if someone from GHS Administration was present to give feedback on visibility from the Main Office.
 - Mr. Walko was informed by Tom Bobkowski, who was not present at the meeting, that the committee should keep in mind that currently, GHS security personnel are not present 24 hours per day, 7 days a week and are not there all 12 months of the year.
 - Ms. Downey did not like scheme 2 and was concerned with tucking the security desk in the corner. She agreed with the idea that a bigger amount of space is needed for students and supported the idea of also incorporating protection for the existing corridor. She also had a concern with the once scheme showing a bump out into the corridor.
 - Ms. Bonanno noted that Scheme 4 is top for her as well as a few current GHS students that she asked. The one suggestion would be to create a larger overhang for protection from weather. She also expressed concern over schemes that show the security desk in a corner.
 - Ms. Cowie prefers the functionality of Scheme 1 and also agrees that the security desk should be central. She also believes that the Main Office should have visibility for after school hours.
 - Ms. Cole noted that she likes Scheme 4 and can visualize some greenery in the lobby. She also likes Scheme 1 without the big cardinal shown in the photo presented.
 - Mr. Contadino thought that Scheme 4 seemed to be a natural extension of the school. He agreed with the inclusion of a covered overhang, but noted that it really does not offer that much protection from the elements.
 - There was discussion on the location of the Visitor entrance. The point of the visitor entrance is to control access of the visitors. The security desk is located in a position to give a first read on visitors. Access to the main office should be accessible for students as well.
 - Ms. Cowie noted that there are many volunteers that enter the school that do not need to go into the main office.
 - Mr. Mayo informed the committee that students have badges. He will put together a group from the Main Office to take a look at the functionality of all schemes. His preference would be to keep the students and visitors separate. Student badges should also be made more functional.
 - Ms. Downey suggested that the GHS office staff should meet with the architects to review functionality if the space.
 - Ms. Downey also asked if the glass corridor could be included in the design and whether the current budget allows for it.
 - Mr. Stein noted that the state does not require fortification of those areas. Additionally, fortification of the glass corridor is not included in the Ed Specs, however, the committee can ask the BOE to amend the Ed Specs to include the glass corridor.
 - Mr. Walko expressed concern that some security issues will be made public.

- Mr. Contadino asked what the height requirement is for ballistic glass. Silver Petrucelli responded that the state does not define how high the glass should go. The current design has the ballistic glass up to 10ft.
 - Mr. Yeskey would like the vestibule to have an overhang extension if possible.
 - Mr. Walko asked Mr. Mayo if the vestibule doors would always be locked and Mr. Mayo responded that they would be.
 - Ms. Cole asked what the highest point in the design and if the design could be more dramatic. Silver Petrucelli responded that the height is 30ft in the design.
5. Moving Forward:
- Based on the input from the members not present, and the conversation in the meeting, Mr. Walko indicated that there was a general consensus regarding Scheme 4 and some elements of Scheme 1.
 - Mr. Walko requested that Silver Petrucelli create one more iteration, similar to Scheme 4, with a central security desk and with a larger overhang.
 - It was noted that August 23rd is the next BOE meeting.
 - The committee would meet 1 or 2 more times before the August 23rd BOE meeting.
 - A meeting with GHS Administration will be scheduled to get their input on functionality of the vestibule.
 - The next scheduled meeting will take place on August 4th. At that time a meeting will be set up either on the 11th or the 18th for a vote.
 - Mr. Walko indicated that he would prefer the meetings take place in person and will reach out to town attorneys regarding discussing important security issues in executive session only.
6. Approval of Minutes - Motion was made by Jake Allen and seconded by Christina Downey to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2021 meeting. The motion was approved.
7. Adjourn
- The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Walko at 9:20 am.

Submitted by Maureen Bonanno July 26, 2021