

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

DATE: August 4, 2021

LOCATION: Havemeyer and Virtual via Google Meet

TIME: 8:00 am

Committee Members Present:

Stephen Walko - Chairman

Jake Allen- Vice Chairman

Maureen Bonanno-Secretary

Ashley Cole

Louis Contadino

Stephanie Cowie

Christina Downey (BOE)

Megan Galleta

Leslie Moriarty (BET)

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Steven Swidler (BOE Staff)

Craig Amundson (RTM)

Will Schwartz (DPW)

Dennis Yeskey (P&Z)

Tom Bobkowski (BOE - Central Office)

Dan Watson (BOE- Central Office)

Lauren Rabin (Board of Selectmen)

Ralph Mayo (GHS Principal)

Others Present:

David Stein (Silver Petrucelli)

Dean Petrucelli (Silver Petrucelli)

1. Meeting was called to order by Mr. Walko at 8:04 a.m
2. Invoice Approval: Mr. Walko asked for a motion to approve an invoice from Silver Petrucelli and Associates. Ms Moriarity first asked if a budget had been prepared by the committee and Mr. Walko responded that at this point, the committee is working with the budget approved by the BET.

Motion was made by Jake Allen and seconded by Maureen Bonanno to approve the payment of Invoice 21-1491 to Silver Petrucelli & Associates in the amount of \$8,204 for 20% of the Schematic Design Fee.

The Motion Passed 9-0-0

3. Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Jake Allen and seconded by Christina Downey to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2021 meeting. The motion was approved.

The Motion Passed 8-0-1

4. Mr. Walko addressed the recent article in the Greenwich Time which stated that state funding has already been approved for this project. Mr. Walko stated that, to date, there is no state funding. Ms. Downey noted that the BOE must give authority to the Building Committee to seek state funding.
5. Silver Petrucelli & Associates Presentation:
 - Mr. Walko noted that, last week, Mr. Mayo and his staff at GHS joined a call with the architects to review the functionality of the interior space. The project schematics presented today incorporate changes as a result of that discussion.
 - The presentation today includes updates to Schemes 1 and 4 from the July 14th presentation with an additional scheme, Scheme 6.
 - Scheme 1 Revision:
 - Includes a change to the location of the security desk. The location in this scheme has the security desk in a corner, connected to the main office, at the same elevation as the main office. As previously noted, the elevation of the current main office is 10 inches higher than the proposed vestibule.
 - Includes 3 sets of aligned, double doors to accommodate students and one set of double doors for visitors, which the security guard or main office would control access to.
 - The elimination of the decorative GHS cardinal.
 - Ms. Downey asked about the security guard's view of the plaza, and if it is compromised with this configuration. Mr. Stein responded that since the security guard is now elevated, they have a better view of the lobby and, along with cameras, there should be no issue monitoring the plaza.
 - Mr. Stein noted that, after further review, a central location of the security guard is not ideal, as the guard would not have the ability to see the students behind the guard station.
 - Mr. Petrucelli noted that the security desk would be enclosed in ballistic glass and also noted that most districts prefer this feature, however, it is not required by the state. Mr. Walko noted that this feature should be discussed with the BOE.
 - Ms. Moriarity asked if there could be access to the vestibule from the security desk without going through the main office for a faster response to any incidents. Silver Petrucelli indicated that it was possible, however, Mr. Bobkowski noted that during the busiest times, there are 2 security guards present and one will be outside of the station for easy access to the students..
 - Scheme 4
 - Revised to include a canopy and V-shaped columns.
 - Ms. Cole inquired as to the origin of the timber usage and whether we are married to the concept of incorporating it in the design.

- Silver Petrucelli noted that the use of timber in this scheme picks up the theme of the high school and connects the use of timber in the existing corridor but the design does not need to include the timber.
 - Ms. Downey noted that she would prefer simple clean lines instead of the V-shaped columns.
 - Scheme 6
 - Includes a larger security desk, increased from 100 square feet to 200 square feet to give better visibility. Visibility from the Main Office would not be affected.
 - There are less doors than in Scheme 1, but they are wider.
 - A more contemporary, artistic design and is substantially higher than the previous schemes presented.
 - A question was asked on whether the lighting would be a problem for the neighbors given the height of the structure.
 - Ms. Cole noted that she appreciated the glamor of this scheme and the possible lighting concepts that could be incorporated.
 - Ms. Bonanno inquired about the budget of this concept compared to the others. Silver Petrucelli noted that this concept would be on the high end of the budget.
6. Moving Forward:
- Mr. Walko noted three areas of importance: The scope of the security desk, the exterior overhang for weather protection and the interplay of the ramp and the Main Office.
 - Mr. Walko also noted that the long term cost for maintenance for the different schemes should be considered, however, Mr. Petrucelli responded that the maintenance costs for the different schemes are similar.
 - Mr. Walko requested that the next round of schematics show perspectives from looking inward to the vestibule and also perspectives of the security guard.
 - Silver Petrucelli will prepare some additional comparisons for the next meeting.
 - Ms. Downey will confirm the BOE schedule and timing of the vote for the design.
 - Committee will meet again on August 11th. A decision will be made on a virtual vs. in person meeting.
7. Adjourn
- The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Walko at 9:50 am.

Submitted by Maureen Bonanno August 10th, 2021