

Minutes

Minuteman School Building Committee Meeting

Monday May 23, 2016 5:00 PM Paul Revere Room, Minuteman High School

Present: Ford Spalding, Ed Bouquillon, Brian Solywoda, Mary Ann Williams, Dana Ham, Don Lowe, Frank Cannon, David Frizzell, Mike Lawson, Alice Kaufman, Jack Weis, Mike Majors, Kevin Mahoney, Peter Sugar, Marianne Cooley

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:01PM.

2. Approval of Past Minutes (3.14.16)

The following vote was taken:

Moved (Bouquillon) and seconded (Lowe)

To approve the past minutes of 3.14.16

Vote: Unanimous

3. Approval of Invoices

There were no invoices to approve.

4. Discussion on Town Meeting Results and MSBA Process/Next Steps

Ford Spalding updated the School Building Committee on the Town Meeting results regarding funding the building project, and posed the question of how to work together to get Belmont to "Yes".

Jack Weis reported that the fundamental issue in Belmont is size and cost. He explained their opposition to building a school for 628 students when a current average enrollment is 331, and noted that their projected enrollment is too low relative to the cost.

Ford expressed that Belmont needs more information, particularly regarding the new marketing/recruitment effort under way, and the effort to get additional towns to join. He noted that Belmont had expressed they could not afford the project given their other capital needs, but there was no discussion on the impact of the educational plan, and the non-MSBA option.

Ed Bouquillon updated the School Building Committee on the failed vote policy, and explained that he had sent a letter to MSBA requesting an extension of the Feasibility Study for another 180 days (6 months). He explained that MSBA will need to approve this extension, and if they do not, the District will have to start the process all over again. He also noted that there is a plan to convene a stakeholders meeting with local officials of the 10 remaining towns.

He explained the District's 2 options: To approve bonding under 16 (d), and that if a town votes no, proceed under 16 (n). Discussion ensued to clarify the withdrawal option under 16 (n). Mary Ann Williams estimated that with approval under 16 (d) being delayed, the District will lose \$3-6M in building escalation costs.

Maryanne Cooley pointed out that the Regional Agreement and the Building Project are separate, and Belmont officials were surprised by the 15-1 support of the project. Jack Weis noted that he had advocated that the District go through the 16 (d) Town Meeting process. He pointed out that Minuteman provides resources to Belmont that cannot be replicated, and that he has no desire to withdraw at this point. Maryanne Cooley added that representatives from all Boards of Selectmen need to get together to see what the options are after the Arlington override vote, tentatively set for June 14.

Frank Cannon wondered why MSBA would support a smaller school, if they will then need to fund a building project to support the overload of students who would not get in. There was then a discussion about the impact of enrollment and the impact of eliminating programs.

Ed pointed out that MSBA will not support a school for fewer than 628 students. He noted that he will invite MSBA, DESE, and NEASC representatives to the stakeholders meeting to address any and all questions.

Ford pointed out that he will not call another meeting until there is some clear direction established for the future of the project. He may work with Mary Ann Williams and Dana Ham on the Non-MSBA Option. Jack Weis suggested that the costs be broken down so that trigger costs, scope of work, and associated costs are clear. Mary Ann Williams pointed out that this material is already on the website.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 PM.

Kevin Mahoney, Recorder