



SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUSINESS MEETING OPEN SESSION MINUTES June 26, 2018

Meeting:	School Committee
Date:	June 26, 2018
Location:	MERHS Learning Commons
Attendees:	Pamela Beaudoin, Superintendent Avi Urbas, Director of Finance Sarah Wolf Rachel Fitzgibbon Caroline Weld Shannon Erdmann
Absent:	Ann Cameron, Chairperson Julie Riordan, Co-Chairperson Ken Warnock
Guests:	
Recorded by:	Gail Hunter

A. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

1) **Public Comment** – There was no public comment.

2) **Chairman' Report** – No Chairman's Report this evening.

3) **Consent Agenda**

- Acceptance of Warrants
- Minutes: 6/7/18
- Budget Transfers

Ms. Fitzgibbon questioned the “see attached” on the budget transfer statement, there were no collateral materials attached. Mr. Urbas indicated that was a soft ware phrase when a voucher

included several items (notebooks, paper, books with titles etc.) the report defaults to “see attached”. Mr. Urbas reviews all vouchers in detail and would be happy to provide that information if the Committee would like to review. Ms. Fitzgibbon thanked Mr. Urbas for his response and indicated she was good to approve.

Ms. Weld moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Ms. Erdmann seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 in favor.

Ms. Wolf moved to approve the Budget Transfers, Ms. Erdmann seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 in favor.

4) Sub- Committee Reports

- Elementary Facilities (Ms. Weld and Ms. Cameron)
 - Pre-Kindergarten Value Engineering Classroom Reduction

The Committee discussed reducing the Pre-K classrooms from 4 rooms to 2 rooms. Superintendent Beaudoin pointed out this is an area where the School Committee is building for the future. MSBA supported the addition of rooms in the new Memorial School for Pre-K classes and the School Committee approved building 4 rooms for the program. However, in the Value Engineering phase of the Building Committee’s process the question was asked if 2 rooms would be an option.

Ms. Weld indicated expanding for a program the District has yet to develop when we are challenged to meet the educational goals mandated seems like an area where the Committee could recommend cutting. She would like to be able to defend the program and 4 class rooms but does not feel at this point there is sufficient information to back the 4 class rooms.

Ms. Erdmann stated she thought Ms. Cameron brought up a good point when she indicated we could have Pre-K in Essex and Manchester.

Superintendent Beaudoin indicated 2 Pre-K classes will allow the District to include 15 students with 8 special ed students in the program in each of the 2 class rooms.

Ms. Weld moved to have the School Building Committee reduce the number of Pre-K classrooms from 4 to 2, Ms. Wolf seconded the motion. The motion failed to pass with a vote of 2 in favor and 2 against.

Ms. Wolf moved the School Committee was comfortable in reporting the majority of the School Committee was in favor of reducing the number of Pre-K classes from 4 to 2. Ms. Erdmann seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 – 0.

Had the full School Committee been present, the vote would have been 4 members in favor of reducing the number of Pre-K classrooms and 3 opposed to reducing the number of classroom.

- Parks & Rec Value Engineering Space Reduction

The designated area for Parks and Rec. has been eliminated from the Memorial School building project. The Town of Manchester does not currently have the funds to go forward. Custodial service area was moved to the position of Parks and Rec. to allow for maximum savings estimated at \$900K.

A conversation will need to take place around where the Parks and Rec. summer program can take place in the new school. That discussion will need to take into considerations things like flooring, drop off and pick up space and snack area. The School Committee will discuss and develop an appropriate fee schedule for Parks and Rec. usage in the new Memorial School.

Also, part of the Value Engineering discussion around reduction of costs focused on Pre-K and 4 classrooms vs. 2 classrooms. Eliminating 2 classrooms will save an estimated \$850K.

Superintendent Beaudoin listed the Value Engineering additional areas for the Committee to address:

- Gym maintain regulation size vs. elementary size – savings of \$500K

Ms. Erdmann indicated the current gym is over booked and a second regulation size gym meets the needs of the community and both Towns. Committee members present agreed keeping the gym in the new Memorial School meets the needs of the community. Mr. Warnock, Ms. Riordan and Ms. Cameron in their written statements to the Committee supported keeping the regulation size gym in the new Memorial School to meet the current demands for playing space.

- Change gym roof to flat from gabled

This is an area where the design change will go against one of the original objectives for the building to fit into the neighborhood. That said, the Committee understands it does not impact the Educational Plan and could be considered for savings.

- Delete all overhangs from the building – savings of \$470K

The Committee believes eliminating all overhangs will eliminate shade inside the building adding to glare in classrooms. Additionally, no overhangs give the building a less appealing appearance. School Committee recommends keeping overhangs on the building.

- Glass – reduce the amount of glass in the building – savings of \$113K

Glass allows for bringing the outdoor space into the building. School Committee recommends keeping windows.

- Change from wood trim in the entrance to a more industrial look using steel -- \$89K

The School Committee would like to be able to keep the wood in the HUB of the building it adds warmth to the open area.

- Eliminate folding partition between gym and cafeteria -- \$40K

School Committee recommends keeping the folding partition. Plans for utilizing the space at its maximum potential call for being able to separate the rooms with the folding partition.

- Eliminate deck outside of media room – savings of \$79K

The School Committee is in favor of keeping the deck outside the media room. Having already given up the green roof this was an area where the outdoor classroom and garden reading area are part of the environmentally open component to the educational plan.

The Committee additionally discussed the overall cost of the new Memorial School.

Ms. Wolf asked what was the final construction number proposed by the School Building Committee? Asking for confirmation of the target number. She questioned if the group said we do not want to spend more than \$44M and are we working back to an arbitrary number?

Superintendent Beaudoin indicated that W. T Rich indicated the site was contributing significantly to the cost of the project. The site is small and surrounded with wetlands, the building process is phased and that adds time to construction costs.

- Finance Committee (Ms. Cameron/Ms. Erdmann) – No Report
- Policy Committee (Ms. Fitzgibbon/Mr. Warnock) – No Report
- Negotiation Team (Sarah Wolf/Julie Riordan) – No Report

5) Superintendent's Report – Included in discussion of Memorial School.

6) New Business – There was no new business to address.

7) Continued Business –

- FY19 Budget Update – moved to July 9, 2018 meeting.
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8) Executive Session – delayed until July 9, 2018.

9) School Committee Comment – no additional comment from Committee Members.

10) Attendance at Building Committee Meeting

Building Committee Meeting Minutes will reflect decisions of the School Committee made prior to Building Committee Meeting and reflected in the above minutes.

Ms. Weld moved to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Wolf seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Meeting Materials: Hand Out from Building Committee