

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

DATE: February 5, 2025

LOCATION: GHS and Virtual via Zoom

TIME: 8:00 am

Committee Members Present:

Stephen Walko - Chairman

Maureen Bonanno-Secretary

Louis Contadino

Stephanie Cowie

Jake Allen - Vice Chairman

Leslie Moriarty (BET)

Ashley Cole

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Ralph Mayo

Will Schwartz (DPW)

Craig Amundson (RTM)

Lauren Rabin

Dan Watson

Others Present:

David Stein(Silver Petrucelli)

Bob Washburn (Silver Petrucelli)

Randy Feda (Werert)

Mike Lampel (Wernert)

Not Present:

Dennis Yeskey (P&Z)

Karen Hirsh (BOE)

Steven Swidler (BOE Staff)

Brent Reeves (BOE - Central Office)

- **Call to Order:**

- The meeting was called to order by Mr. Walko at 8:03 a.m.

- **Discussion on Open Items:**

- Mr. Walko began the meeting with an update on the bollard lighting, noting that committee members met at night at GHS, along with some of the neighbors, to view the impact of the exterior lighting at night. Mr. Walko stated that the committee consensus was that the bollard lights, which replaced the pole lighting, are very bright and the suggestion was made to have

them dimmable. Mr. Walko clarified that the building lights were not part of the project and therefore the committee does not have the ability to change those.

- Mr. Stein stated from an architectural/safety perspective the lights can be dimmed and still meet standards. He continued, we can put the lights on dimmers and/or timers which would turn the lights off at a designated time. The suggestion from the BOE staff was to take the human element out, and have them automated.
- Ms. Bonanno asked if the bollard lighting were turned off, how would that affect the security cameras and Mr. Walko responded that Mr. Reeves did not think that there would be an issue.
- Mr. Allen asked if we change the drivers to be permanently dimmed and Mr. Stein responded that he can ask the manufacturer, but, may be more costly and may affect the warranty.
- Mr. Stein noted that once the lights are dimmed, there would be a lock box to prevent changes. He added, per code, there needs to be an even spread of light so he suggested at the time of installation, they should walk around and set the lighting so it meets code.
- Ms. Bonanno asked what the benefit would be for turning off the lights at midnight and Mr. Stein responded that the bollard lights were meant to assist with egress only, so they are not needed when the school is vacated. Mr. Walko also noted that there are savings with turning out the lights and other benefits and the security and facilities teams will determine what time the lights would go off.
- Ms. Moriarty asked if the building lights were on timers and if there was any concern with the bollard lighting not in sync. Mr. Walko clarified that the exterior lights are not something the committee can address and believes that .

- **Motions to Change Bollard Lighting:**

Motion was made by Ms. Moriarty and seconded by Mr. Allen to install both a dimmer and a timer for a total cost of \$7,950.

The motion was approved. *The Motion Passed 7-0-0.*

- Mr. Walko then discussed the exterior wood cleaning. Ms. Cole spoke with Mr. Watson, who noted that they tried cleaning, tried putting oil on it but there was concern that they would be damaged if they did more. Mr. Contadino noted that if they were to be replaced, this would be an in kind replacement and they would not need to go back to ARC for approval. Mr. Walko clarified that this was not part of the project. Mr. Contadino stressed the importance of replacing this wood and should be addressed as soon as possible by the BOE.
- Mr. Schwartz stated that the CO just needs Zoning sign off. Mr. Walko stated that he will follow up with him.
- Mr. Walko asked if all of the information for the state filings was sent to Samantha. Mr. Feda responded that they will follow up. Mr. Walko clarified there is the state filing as well as the CHRO filing that they are continuing to work on them.
- Mr. Walko spoke about the door stops which the original ones did not work and broke off immediately and they then replaced them with commercial grade door stops which also do not work. The doors extend beyond 90 degrees which leads to the handles hitting each other and the students have had their hands impacted. Mr. Stein responded that code does not require having all of the handles and the committee discussed other options to resolve the issue and will visit the hallway to look at the doors after the meeting and Silver Petrucelli will come up

with a solution that will be voted on at the next meeting. Mr. Walko suggested, and the committee agreed, the solution should not entail removing existing hardware.

- The committee then reviewed the RTM Report which was submitted to the committee. Mr. Walko stated that he updated the report to accurately reflect the timing of P&Z's approval, noting that P&Z originally approved the plan at their January 2022 meeting and the subsequent redesign, which was necessary to lower the cost, was approved in April 2023.

- **Motions to Approve RTM Report:**

Motion was made by Ms. Moriarty and seconded by Mr. Allen to approve the RTM Report, subject to further review of the proposed changes by the committee . The motion was approved. *The Motion Passed 7-0-0.*

- **Motions to Approve Minutes:**

Motion was made by Mr. Allen and seconded by Ms. Moriarty to approve the meeting minutes from the January 8th meeting. The motion was approved. *The Motion Passed 7-0-0.*

- **Moving Forward:**

- Mr. Walko stated that the next committee meeting will be on Wednesday, March 5th. A Zoom meeting may be scheduled prior to March 5th to discuss a resolution to the door stops.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 am.

Submitted by Maureen Bonanno on February 27, 2025