

RIVERSIDE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

Organizational Meeting

Wednesday, February 18th, 2026 | 7:30 AM ET

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Attendee	Position	Present	Absent
Officers			
Stephan Pezdek	Chair	In Person	
Luigi Ghilardi	Vice-Chair	In Person	
Bryan Finkel	Secretary	In Person	
Voting Members			
Paul Cappiali	BOE Member	Zoom	
Louis Contadino	Regular Member		Absent
Doug Fenton	BET Member	In Person	
Christina Lyndon	Regular Member	In Person	
Ex-Officio / Non-Voting Members			
Veronica Chiavaroli	First Selectman's Advisory Advocacy Committee for People with Disabilities	In Person	
Christina Downey	RTM Representative	In Person	
Nicholas Macri	P&Z Representative	Zoom	
Jason Martin	Riverside School Principal		Absent
Lauren Rabin	BOS Representative	Zoom	
Sheel Spina	DPW Representative		Absent
Guests			
Carey Bisbee		In Person	
Andy Duus		In Person	
Evan Pfenninger		Zoom	
Lisa Yates		Zoom	

MEETING MINUTES

Item	Topic	Description
1.00	Call to Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting called to order at 7:32 AM ET
2.00	Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As noted above
3.00	Housekeeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal Martín is now formally invited to this and future meetings Mr. Pezdek noted, barring any objections from the group, that the time (7:30 AM ET) and cadence (weekly on Wednesday mornings) will remain for the foreseeable future Next meeting to be held at same time and place on February 25th, weather permitting
4.00	Approval of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion to approve minutes from February 4th meeting approved by unanimous consent at 7:37 AM ET
5.00	Review of Educational Specifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Bisbee, a member of the former Feasibility Committee, joined the meeting to give an overview of the process undertaken by that committee to develop the educational specifications that serve as the basis for the committee's work Ms. Bisbee identified five critical steps taken as part of the evaluative process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and catalog issues in the building Establish a set of goals and priorities—the basis for the EdSpecs Engage professional team to produce the formal EdSpecs Develop a cost estimate—an independent cost estimator was hired Review and approval from the Board of Education Ms. Bisbee detailed the Feasibility Committee's sounding process with various constituencies, reviewed sections of the EdSpecs in detail, and answered questions from the committee regarding whether several items were considered as part of the process Committee members then discussed with Ms. Bisbee input factors including enrollment projections, renovation vs. new build cost and timeline, Committee members discussed the Riverside project to some of the issues facing other school construction projects in town—including OGS and JCS Ms. Bisbee stressed the need for transparency and provision of regular updates to stakeholders including staff, parents, and neighbors frequently during the process
6.00	Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee members discussed recent revisions to state reimbursement policies that may encourage the inclusion of Pre-K as part of the plans. The matter will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting
7.00	New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karen Tedesco and Eugene Watts, who will be helping to craft the RFP template, have been invited to next meeting to discuss the town's RFP process more broadly Mr. Ghilardi re-raised the topic of renovation vs. new build; Mr. Pezdek noted that an informed opinion on this should be required as part of the RFP response.
8.00	Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion to adjourn at 8:28 AM ET by Mr. Fenton, seconded by Mr. Finkel. Unanimous approval