

Central Berkshire Regional School District
School Building Project Committee Meeting
Tuesday February 28, 2017

A regular meeting of the Central Berkshire Regional School District School Building Needs Committee, held at Wahconah Regional High School in Dalton, MA, on Tuesday February 28, 2017 was called to order by Co-Chair Tom Callahan at 4:31

Co-Chair Callahan opened the meeting

ROLL CALL

Present: Tom Callahan (Co-Chair), Robert Archambault (Student Rep), John Bartels, Gary Campbell Jr., Wayne Cronnell, Mike Daniels, Jason Dion, Andrew Garcia, Kerry Mason, Bill Mullholland, Jan Paxton, Richard Peters, Aaron Robb, Chuck Sturtevant, Shawn Therrien, Melinda Walton, Superintendent Laurie Casna

Absent: Shawn Armacost (Co-Chair), Anna Duquette (Student Rep), Mike Case, Liz Daniels, Todd Emerson, Mike Hagmaier, John McComish, Roberta McCulloch Dews, Assistant Superintendent Melissa Falkowski

Also Present: Recording Secretary and Members of the Audience

2. Validation of Agenda

Co-Chair Callahan validated the agenda as required by the open meeting law.

3. Response from Audience

None

4. Approval of minutes from February 13, 2017 meeting

MOVED BY MEMBER STURTEVANT SECONDED BY MEMBER DION

To approve the minutes of the School Building Committee minutes of February 13, 2017 as printed.

Ayes: 15 members

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Update on Logistics for election from Seven Town Meeting

At the Seven Town Meeting Co-Chair Armacost discussed the topics that needed to be addressed. It was reported that this was a cordial meeting. Members saw a positive reaction from the town officials. Member John Bartels added that there were some concerns, not necessarily negative. Member Chuck Sturtevant responded that the concerns were addressed, however, not necessarily solved. Member Sturtevant added he believes the message is out there that we are voting on a feasibility study to determine what needs to be done.

Melinda Walton arrived 4:37

HS Principal Aaron commented that he was at the meeting in the audience and he walked away with 3 things on his mind; He thinks we need to simplify the explanation of what is happening with the vote to the following topics:

- Why we need the vote
- What the study is
- How much it is going to cost

We should focus a little more on the actual cost to us as the \$425,000 not the full \$850,000. Superintendent Casna also commented she believes we need to get the fact out that we are the second largest school district in the county. The enrollment numbers are predicted to stay at this number in the coming years. Student athletic and arts program participation are extremely high at Wahconah.

6. Update on Town Voting Process and Outreach

Member Mike Daniels spoke to the Town of Cummington Council on Aging, he had about 30 people come to listen to him. Mike believes he had a good response from them. Co-Chair Callahan stated he is being asked about the amount of money the study is costing from several people.

Member Bartels added he thinks that the actual percentage of tax increase should be explained to the voters. Member Jan Paxton also commented that it needs to be shown if we don't go through with this MSBA project that there will still be a cost to structurally fix the building without any extra help from the state. New committee member Richard Peters introduced himself and suggested putting this information into a document for voters to see.

It was determined that the towns of Windsor and Washington both do a town mailing and that if this committee can get a pamphlet together that can be sent out with the town mailing that would be a way to reach all of the voters in those 2 towns. Hinsdale does an electronic mailing with town news to the residents of Hinsdale and the pamphlet from the building committee could also be sent out in that electronic communication. Aaron Robb wants to have a pamphlet to put in people's hands when members of this committee go to the towns to hold the informational meetings.

Information needs to get out now per Aaron. A comment was made to him at one of the tours that this building project is the best kept secret. Tom Callahan asked if we can use the football booster club emails and similar groups to get the word out to more people. Gary Campbell said that it wouldn't be a problem to get this information out on the 12th man website. He suggested using the CRA and the Dalton Benefit Association as more public outreach. There is a coaches meeting tonight and Gary will get a contact list at that meeting. He will then send the list to Aaron. John Bartels asked if putting a robo call out now to tell when the vote will be might start generating conversation. He suggested putting a call out on March 8 to say the vote will be held in one month. Follow up with an email telling people when the informational meetings are going to happen in each town. Tom Callahan stated he sees this as our obligation to let people know what is going on. Rich Peters suggested contacting Paul Mark. Rich will try to contact Paul. Discussion also occurred about why groups have not formed outside of this committee.

7. Working Session:

The committee did not break into groups at this meeting.

A. Informational Outreach Groups

i. Dalton TV Show

Bill Lee spoke from Dalton Cable TV - He reiterated the points the committee needs to be working on to reach the community. Dalton cable TV reaches about 2200 cable subscribers. Bill stated the only other means you have to reach people is face to face communication. He also said most people have never heard of MSBA, and people want to know why we need the feasibility study. He suggested our message should be broken down into the following parts:

- Explain what MSBA is
- Explain the urgency for why something needs to be done at Wahconah
- Explain what the feasibility study is
- Explain the educational limitations
- Explain Cost

Bill stated he could do the filming in the evening or late afternoon if that works for the panel. He also suggested doing a walk through first. Bill would like someone to come in and look at the set up they have planned so that can be approved. After some discussion it was determined that committee members will email Aaron with any

questions they think should be answered on the panel by Friday March 3rd. Aaron suggested doing the dry run on the same night as the actual taping. The current plan is to do the filming at Dalton Community Cable on March 8th at 4:30. The television panel will meet at Wahconah on March 6th at 4:30 to go over the script.

ii. Town Meetings

The Wahconah SBC will be holding several community nights to better inform the public about the upcoming vote on the Wahconah Feasibility Study. Our plan is to hold four informational events in the following locations:

- Becket - Washington Elementary for Becket/Washington residents on March 21 at 6pm in the Community Room
- Kittredge Elementary for Peru/Hinsdale residents on March 23 at 6pm in the library
- Wahconah for Dalton residents on March 28 in the auditorium
- Windsor Town Hall for Cummington/Windsor residents on March 30 (please be advised that this date is tentative pending approval from Windsor Select Board)

At the next meeting this committee will actively plan for those nights.

The next building tour will be on Saturday March 11 at 10 am.

The next meeting will be Tuesday March 14 at Wahconah at 4:30

8. Adjourn

Adjournment 6:00 PM