

Central Berkshire Regional School District
School Building Project Committee Meeting
Thursday January 19, 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 Thursday January 19, 2017 was called to order by Co-Chair Tom Callahan at 4:35

Co-Chair Callahan opened the meeting

ROLL CALL

Present: Shawn Armacost (Co-Chair), Tom Callahan (Co-Chair), Robert Archambault (Student Rep), Anna Duquette (Student Rep), John Bartels, Gary Campbell Jr., Mike Case, Wayne Cronnell, Liz Daniels, Mike Daniels, Jason Dion, Andrew Garcia, Mike Hagmaier, Kerry Mason, Bill Mullholland, Jan Paxton, Aaron Robb, Chuck Sturtevant, Melinda Walton, Assistant Superintendent Melissa Falkowski, Superintendent Laurie Casna

Absent: Todd Emerson, Roberta McCulloch Dews, John McComish, Shawn Therrien

Also Present: Recording Secretary

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 January 4, 2017 meeting

MOVED BY MEMBER DION SECONDED BY MEMBER BARTELS

To approve the minutes of the School Building Committee minutes of January 4, 2017 as printed.

Ayes: 18 members

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

Co-Chair Armacost stated that the school committee voted to implement the popular vote. He contacted the town administrator in Hinsdale to see how the school building committee should proceed with the towns. Ryan Aylesworth from Hinsdale recommended for someone from the group to go to each town and give a presentation.

Laurie Casna, Bob Archambault, and Gary Campbell Jr. arrived at the meeting at this time.

Group discussion continued and it was noted that we are looking at April 11 for the vote. It was also recommended that a Saturday vote might be a good idea. The seven town meeting is on February 16.

After the school committee has approved the wording of the vote we have 7 days to notify the towns. Group discussion continued regarding language of the vote and hours the elections should be held.

Superintendent Casna suggested breaking into groups. The committee broke into two working session groups at 4:52. The committee reconvened at 5:44.

5. Working Session: Scope of Feasibility, Proposed Budget, Informational Outreach; with report back on recommendation to full school committee

A. Proposed Budget for the Feasibility Study (Scope of Feasibility combined groups with proposed budget)

Melissa talked about the estimated costs of the feasibility study and the effects of the study on the towns. See handout “Feasibility Study Estimated Costs” for the breakdown of what the estimated costs will be. This chart is without MSBA reimbursements.

Superintendent Casna also discussed if we build a 9-12 building we can change the grade configuration down the road, the MSBA just wants to be notified of any changes in configuration. MSBA’s main concern is that the building be open and used. The study MSBA is going to conduct is what kind of facility you need.

B. Informational Outreach; with report back on recommendation to full school committee

- The group discussed with committee member John Bartels about the next steps to go forward with Dalton TV. John is checking to see about the video tour being shown on Dalton television and when we can tape a panel discussion to air in March.
- Each member of this group is going to send Aaron Robb some FAQ. A suggestion was made for the Wahconah Building Committee webpage to have a spot where people can submit questions. Laurie will set that up.
- Conversations are happening in the community; both pro and con about the vote.
- This group is going to put more information on social media, twitter etc. In addition, they are going to try to have paper brochures for anything that they post on social media for those that do not have social media. They also want to get some face-time with the Greylock School Committee to get ideas for getting the information out. They are struggling with getting paper information out as well as what to post on social media.
- The next tour should happen Wednesday Feb 15 at 6pm. It was recommended that what was done last time to get the word out about the tour be done again.
- Aaron Robb is going to create a list of model schools this group can visit.
- Aaron recommended that Tom Callahan have one or two current Wahconah students with him when he goes to the senior centers in the seven towns to discuss the study. The students should preferably be from the town he is talking to at the time. Tom agreed that would be very helpful to get the students point of view.

Co-Chair Armacost stated we have to make a motion

MOVED BY MEMBER STURTEVANT SECONDED BY ASSIST. SUPER. FALKOWSKI

That the Wahconah School Building Committee recommends to the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee (“Committee”) that they approve the Feasibility Study which will assess and analyze updating and improving the current Wahconah Regional High School Building, and assess and analyze an alternative to build a new Wahconah Regional High School on the current campus shared by Wahconah Regional High School and Nessacus Regional Middle School.

That the Committee approve and formally request that the Central Berkshire Regional School District request to appropriate from its member towns (“Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars”) \$850,000 for the purpose of performing this study which shall conform to the guidelines and requirements set forth by the Massachusetts School Building Authority as part of the invitation to participate in this Eligibility Period.

The motion was amended to remove the wording an alternative to and change the word build to building

MOVED BY MEMBER CASE SECONDED BY MEMBER DION

That the Wahconah School Building Committee recommends to the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee (“Committee”) that they approve the Feasibility Study which will assess and analyze updating and improving the current Wahconah Regional High School Building, and assess and analyze building a new Wahconah Regional High School on the current campus shared by Wahconah Regional High School and Nessacus Regional Middle School.

That the Committee approve and formally request that the Central Berkshire Regional School District request to appropriate from its member towns (“Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars”) \$850,000 for the purpose of performing this study which shall conform to the guidelines and requirements set forth by the Massachusetts School Building Authority as part of the invitation to participate in this Eligibility Period.

Ayes: 21 members

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be February 7, 2017 at 4:30 at Wahconah

6. Adjourn

Adjournment 6:34 PM