

Central Berkshire Regional School District
School Building Project Committee Meeting
Monday, February 13, 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 Monday February 13, 2017 was called to order by Co-Chair Shawn Armacost at 4:37

Co-Chair Armacost opened the meeting

ROLL CALL

Present: Shawn Armacost (Co-Chair), Tom Callahan (Co-Chair), John Bartels, Wayne Cronnell, Jason Dion, Andrew Garcia, John McComish, Roberta McCulloch Dews, Bill Mullholland, Jan Paxton, Aaron Robb, Shawn Therrien, Assistant Superintendent Melissa Falkowski, Superintendent Laurie Casna

Absent: Robert Archambault (Student Rep), Anna Duquette (Student Rep), Gary Campbell Jr., Mike Case, Mike Daniels, Liz Daniels, Todd Emerson, Mike Hagmaier, Kerry Mason, Chuck Sturtevant, Melinda Walton

Also Present: Recording Secretary and Members of the Audience

2. Validation of Agenda

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

3. Response from Audience

None

4. Approval of minutes from January 19, 2017 meeting

MOVED BY MEMBER CRONNELL SECONDED BY MEMBER BARTELS

To approve the minutes of the School Building Committee minutes of January 19, 2017 as printed.

Ayes: 12 members

Nays: None.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Update of School Committee Vote

Shawn Armacost stated that the School Committee has voted to accept the appropriation for the Wahconah Feasibility Study.

6. Update on Town Voting Process and Outreach

The Seven Advisory will meet this Thursday February 17 at 7:00. The towns have had questions about the voting process. Superintendent Casna stated that we should have the language for the ballot question this week. Each town has received the election warrant. The vote will take place on Saturday April 8 with a six - hour window. This committee will work on getting everything out to the towns 28 days prior to the election. Each town will have to put out a call for voters to register with a 2 -week window for that. This information will be discussed at the Seven Town meeting. The expectation is for all towns to print their own ballot; the language of the vote would be provided by this committee. Melissa Falkowski stated that MSBA has said that the language is acceptable in the warrant that went out with the letter to the towns. The warrant is at bond council and they should have their decision quickly probably by tomorrow February 14 and it should go to the seven towns then. Melissa said each town should also send it to their own counsel. Committee member John Bartels asked about shifting the 6- hour time frame for Dalton. If we used the time frame 10-4 instead of 8-2 that might be more accommodating.

Robert McCulloch Dews arrived at this time (4:43).

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

The committee did not break into groups at this meeting.

A. Informational Outreach Groups

i. Reaching out to the communities for individual informational sessions explaining the vote etc.

Superintendent Casna wants to get an updated press briefing by Friday for the committee to review. The members working on the informational outreach may want to meet at the end of March to talk about the next phases. Co-Chair Tom Callahan suggested that doing a phone call the night before to remind voters that a vote is taking place the next day might be a good idea. He spoke to someone in another district who found this to be an effective way to remind voters to go to the polls. Superintendent Casna will check to see if the ro-bo call would be able to be used just to remind people of when the vote is.

HS Principal Aaron Robb suggested a Prezi about the time line and technical aspects of the voting process. Jan Paxton told the committee that the Town of Washington puts out a monthly informational letter to all town residents call the Washington Tracks and she would like to put an informational briefing in the next tracks, which would need to be given to the town by the first of the month to get into the next tracks issue

ii. Bring a student or two from each town

The month of March is the window of time for reaching out to each town. It was suggested that we hold an informational meeting at each town. Aaron will talk to some students to see who is interested in going to their town. One committee member with one student from that town should be at the meeting. When these town meetings take place the members going should also have informational handouts. Laurie suggested showing parts of the prezi and bringing the press briefing these meetings would be helpful. These meetings need to be coordinated with the select board of each town. John Bartels is going to check in Dalton if you can gear this toward being a public hearing. Co-Chair Armacost will check with Hinsdale Town Administrator Ryan Aylesworth.

John McComish arrived at this time (4:57)

iii. Building Tour

The next building tour is Wednesday February 15, 2017 at 6 pm. Currently the tour has been advertised in the paper, and reminders are sent in the school emails. The video tour is about an hour long and has been running on Dalton Television and on the webpage.

iv. Seven Town Meeting

The Seven Town Meeting is Thursday February 16, 2017

B. Voting Process Group

Aaron Robb suggested that it might be better to run the meetings by school community instead of by individual town. This would entail Peru-Hinsdale together meeting at Kittredge, Becket-Washington together meeting at Becket School, Cummington-Windsor together possibly meeting at a location in Cummington and Dalton meeting at Wahconah. Aaron will propose dates for these meetings at the next school building committee meeting. They should be held at the end of March. For each town meeting Aaron would like to attend so he can discuss the scope of day to day in the building and the learning challenges. Co-Chair Armacost will also talk about this at the 7 town meeting on Thursday.

Aaron also gave an update on Dalton Television informational panel. In order for the program to run for the month of March it would have to be recorded and wrapped up by February 25. This is not feasible for this group to complete this with school vacation and not enough people will be around next week to film this show. Aaron stated

any information we can get out in mass quantities is good but we need to make sure it is quality information. Aaron would like to make a plan to get something together after February break so we can have it run for a couple of weeks instead of the entire month of March. The dates to air would be March 25 up to April 8. Aaron would like to have a plan for to create a “script” for that program and possible filming dates. Jan Paxton asked if we can use the television panel program in another media such as Facebook or YouTube. This will be looked into, John Bartels stated he does not see why we couldn’t do that. It should not be any longer than an hour. Jan Paxton recommended keeping it under 30 minutes would be better. Melissa Falkowski stated that if each person took 3 minutes to explain their part we could keep it under 30 minutes.

Suggestion for Dalton TV program:

- People need to understand what the MSBA is – Melissa Falkowski
- The urgency associated with this – Jason Dion
- What it means to be in the eligible and feasibility phases – Tom Callahan and Shawn Armacost
- Educational limitations of the current building – Aaron Robb
- Bob Archambault and Anna Duquette can help Aaron with that by giving a student perspective and Jason can talk about facility issues.

Tom Callahan stated that many people would want to hear something that would enforce more space for the arts, be sure mention areas of the curriculum so we don’t leave something out.

The Prezi is ongoing on the website and the Facebook page. Aaron Robb and Rick White did a voice over of the Prezi for it to air on Dalton Cable Television but they ran into some technical difficulties and will need to do it a second time with help from Shawn Therrien changing some of the fonts.

Laurie asked if anyone knows of any parent groups formed outside of the committee to talk about the vote. Audience member Dan Downer spoke at this point to say he is encouraging people to vote. He finds the biggest question is how much is it going to cost. Dan is staying informed on everything that is being discussed.

Melissa passed out the Election Warrant Ballot question that was sent to the towns and she also passed out the new estimated tax amount for the feasibility study that includes the reimbursement from MSBA.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 28 at Wahconah at 4:30

8. Adjourn

Adjournment 5:36 PM