

Middle School Space Feasibility Committee
Minutes
March 5, 2009

Members Present: William Sapone, Chair; John Convertito, Vice Chair; Sue Brand, Sheryl Santiago, Robert Stone, Kenneth Brachfeld (Alt.), and Ex-officios Jack Boyle and Mary Hogue

Members Absent: Paul Engemann, John Vazquez

Others Present: FPS Director of Operations Tom Cullen, FWMS Principal Greg Hatzis, Judy Ewing, Pam Iacono (BoE), Shannon Bowley (RTM), First Selectman Ken Flatto (arrived at 5:55 PM), and Meg Learson Grosso (The Fairfield Minuteman)

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair William Sapone in the basement meeting room of Independence Hall at 5:05 PM.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of February 13, 2009, which had been previously approved on February 26, 2009, were distributed again for review and final approval. Two changes were brought to the attention of the committee by the Chair. The three sentences at the top of the third page belong in the eighth paragraph on the second page, after the first sentence and before the last sentence. At the top of the last page the spelling of name of the member of the public who spoke was corrected to read "Tim Kery."

The motion to approve the minutes was made by John Convertito and was seconded by Sheryl Santiago and were approved unanimously.

The minutes of February 26, 2009, were distributed, reviewed, and unanimously approved as written. The motion was made by Ken Brachfeld, and seconded by John Convertito and were approved 5:0:1 (Sue Brand).

III. Discussion Regarding Middle School Space Recommendations

The Chair distributed a revised draft titled Report and Recommendations, dated March 5, 2009. He said that the underlined portions indicated changes that he had incorporated from suggestions he had received by e-mail. He led the committee through each of the nine pages of text. During the discussion some twenty-five modifications were made involving new language, minor reorganization, and some deletions.

Briefly, the committee studied the three middle schools and determined that there is a need for additional middle school space. They recommend that a steel fabricated modular construction annex containing at least ten (10) classrooms be constructed at Fairfield

Woods Middle School preferably for the 2011-12 school year, and "that there be a thorough evaluation to assure that there is adequate space within the main building to assure that all educational requirements can be adequately met with the additional student population"

The specific changes were as follows:

1) Page 2, Re: footnotes at the bottom of the page, the first one was changed to include, "1 Enrollment Projections 2008-2009", and it was agreed the document will be appended to the final report.

The third footnote was changed to "2 School Capacity Article, etc.," as written, and it was agreed that the document will be appended to the final report.

The second footnote that appeared in the draft was moved into the text to be placed after the second bullet at the top of the page, and before the words, "The projected enrollments¹, etc.," as written.

2) Page 2, the second sentence of the bullet under the enrollment projections was changed to read, "The middle schools will be operating over capacity in every year for the next ten years, ranging from 5% to 17%."

3) Page 2, Section III., second paragraph, in the second sentence, the footnote number should be changed to ²

4) Page 5, point 4), in the second sentence, the word "teaches" should read "teachers;" the word "loose" should read "lose."

5) Page 6, Section VI., first paragraph, in the first sentence the word "addition" was changed to "additional," followed by the word "space."

6) Page 6, third paragraph, in the third sentence after the word "size," it should read "the additional space," and after the words "to this 110% number could" the words "result in insufficient space being provided" replaced the words that appeared in the draft.

7) Page 7, first paragraph, the fifth and sixth sentences were rewritten to read, "The middle schools town wide will operate over their capacities for four years. However, the range of over capacity for the entire middle school system will be below 8%."

8) Page 7, the second paragraph was deleted.

9) Page 7, the last paragraph, the last sentence which ends on page 8 was rewritten to read, "For example, whether there exists a need for additional: full or part size special education classrooms, unified arts space, and physical education space." The rest of the

words were deleted.

10) Page 8, the beginning of the third full paragraph was changed to read, "The Committee discussed using portable classrooms, and was advised . . ."

11) Page 8, in the fourth paragraph, the last sentence should read, "The Committee assumed that steel fabricated modular construction could generally be completed more quickly and at a lower cost than . . ."

12) Page 8, the words "VII. Conclusions" and the first paragraph were deleted. The second paragraph was moved to the next page. (See 16 below.)

13) Page 9, The first paragraph was deleted.

14) Page 9, Section VII., the word "Summary" was replaced by the word "Conclusion." This section was then moved to page 8 to replace the existing Section VII.

15) Section VII Conclusion was changed as follows: In the first sentence, the commas and the words "hereafter referred to as the Committee" were deleted, as were the words "justified" and "adding." In the second sentence, the words "steel fabricated" were added before the words "modular construction annex," and the comma and the word "preferably" were deleted.

16) Page 8, the paragraph at the bottom of the page was moved to follow the first paragraph of the new Section VII, thus becoming the second paragraph of that section.

17) Page 9, The second paragraph from the top was moved to follow the first two paragraphs of Section VII., and will be the last paragraph of the report.

IV. Public Comment

Judy Ewing asked if section VII. would be renamed "Conclusion" instead of "Summary," noting that "Summary" was used before the first paragraph of the report.

Shannon Bowley, RTM member, expressed concern that mentioning a modular annex would be regarded as the final option, and other options would not be considered.

Pam Iacono, BoE member, expressed the same concern.

Judy Ewing reminded them that the report was a recommendation to several bodies before it went to a building committee.

First Selectman Ken Flatto thanked the committee for their work and suggested that it be presented to the Board of Selectmen in April.

FWMS Principal Greg Hatzis also thanked the committee, and said he enjoyed working

with them.

Various committee members thanked Bill Sapone for his work as Chair of the committee.

V. The Chair then asked for a motion to approve the final revisions of the draft report. The motion was made by John Convertito, and seconded by Bob Stone. The report was approved, 5 in favor, none opposed, and 1 abstention (Sue Brand).

Sue Brand said she abstained because the recommendations were in conflict with the BoE Ed Spec, which she had supported.

The First Selectman said he would let the committee know the date of the Board of Selectman meeting when the report would be on the agenda.

VI. There being no further business, the Chair asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Bob Stone, and seconded by Sue Brand. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.