

Approved 05/03/2005.

5.1

**NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
FACILITIES PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE**

Meeting, 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 12th, 2005

MINUTES

Call to Order. Subcommittee Chair Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr. called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. at Room 104, Lower Level, George H. Triplett Elementary School, 435 Broadway, Newport, Rhode Island. Present were Sub-Committee Members: Newport School Committee members Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., Chairperson; Dr. O. William Hilton (arrived at 3:20), Thomas S. Phelan; Newport City Council members Jeanne-Marie Napolitano (absent); Colleen McGrath; City of Newport Director of Planning, Zoning, Development & Inspection Paige Bronk (Carey Parent); Newport Housing Authority Representative Pauline Perkins-Moye (absent); Newport School Department members Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole, Ed.D., (arrived 3:15) Assistant Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert B. Power, Ed.D. (arrived 3:15); Director of Property Services Paul C. Fagan; Business Manager Bruce N. Alexander; NEA TAN Representative David Koutsogiane (Underwood – 4th Grade) (arrived 3:20) AFSCME Council 94 Local 841 Representative Marcin G. Rembisz (Secretary to Director of Teaching, Learning and Professional Development); Energy Manager Richard Niejadlik (NACTC Technical Assistant); former Property Services Director Ed Brady (RIC Plant Operations) (excused absence); former Assistant Superintendent Sydney Williams (absent); Parent representatives Becky Bolan (Coggeshall PTO President) (arrived 4:30); Lousia Boatwright (Coggeshall Parent) (arrived 3:15); Raymond Gomes (Carey Parent) (absent); Patrick Kelley (Thompson Parent); and Community members Fern Lima, James Perrier and Mark Colborn. Also present was Newport School Committee Chair Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D., Newport School Committee member Jo Eva Gaines, parent Lindora J. Lopes, and Facilitator Drew Carey.

ROLL CALL.

1.0 Welcome and Roll Call

Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr. Chairman called the subcommittee meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12th, 2005 in Room 104, Lower Level of the George H. Triplett Elementary School. Mr. DeAscentis asked Marcin Rembisz to conduct a roll call. Mr. Rembisz reported all members of the subcommittee were in attendance with the following exceptions: arriving after roll call – Subcommittee Vice Chair Dr. O. William Hilton, Becky Bolan, Louisa Boatwright, Mary Canole, David Koutsogiane and Robert Power, absent were Ed Brady, Ray Gomes, Pauline Perkins-Moye, Jeanne-Marie Napolitano and Sidney Williams.

2.0 Approval of Minutes of 3/29/2005 Subcommittee Meeting

Subcommittee Chair Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr. asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 29th, 2005 meeting as presented in draft form. Several typos were corrected. Rick Niejadlik moved to accept the minutes of the March 18th, 2005 meeting as corrected. The motion was seconded by Paige Bronk and the motion carried. (14:0)

Mr. DeAscentis indicated that as the subcommittee goes forward with the drafting and implantation of the long range facilities plan, it may be beneficial to solicit additional members of the community.

3.0 Review of Draft Report to the Newport School Committee

The subcommittee members reviewed the draft Update # 1 to the Newport School Committee from the Facilities Planning Subcommittee report. Several corrections were suggested and incorporated into the draft document, which will be finalized and sent to the Newport School Committee.

4.0 Reporting of the Sub-groups

Ideal School Sub-Group

Reference: 33 Principles of Educational Design handout

Examined four primary questions:

1. Assets of the School Department
2. Ideal Configuration K-5 Schools
 - a. Preliminary configuration three (3) schools housing four hundred (400) students for a K-5 enrollment of 1,200. – Asks Data Analysis group to provide enrollment projections.
 - b. Class Size
 - i. K-3 17 student maximum
 - ii. 4-5 22 student maximum
3. Interior Space
 - a. Facilities – auditorium, cafeteria, parking, etc.
4. Locations
 - a. Sites > 2 acres: Underwood, Coggeshall, Sullivan & Triplett

Bonding

Examining the mechanics of a bond. Contacting Finance Director and State Representatives to discuss bond mechanics. Investigating Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZABs), *[a relatively new financing instrument that can be used to carry out much-needed school renovations and repairs as well as other improvements (any use except new construction). The federal government covers, on average, all of the interest on these bonds, thus enabling schools to save up to 50 percent of the costs of these construction/other projects. The interest payment is actually a tax credit, in lieu of cash, provided to financial*

institutions that hold the bonds. In effect, when a school district issues a QZAB, it is like getting 50% of the funds as a grant.]

Thompson Bond Review – No Report

Public Relations / Communications

Working to identify key “grassroots” groups to present preliminary plans to solicit community feedback on the “ideal” plan of three new elementary schools. The goal of the group is to present the ideal plan to neighborhood groups, service organizations, and other targeted community groups, identify any community objections to the conceptual ideas and plan to overcome the objections.

The three main focus points are:

1. Why new schools?
2. What will they look like?
3. How much will they cost?

Data Analysis

The subgroup is examining the many reports and data that has been collected, and deciphering and analyzing relevant data. The subgroup has also determined an evaluation criterion that will be applied to a set of factors to examine and evaluate the seven elementary schools facilities (Carey, Coggeshall, Cranston-Calvert, Sheffield, Sullivan, Triplett and Underwood). The goal is to present clear and easily understandable matrix of the seven buildings. A fact sheet will be prepared for each building. The subgroup will gather data to evaluate other questions other subgroups may have.

Grant Funding

Investigating and examining various sources of funding including bonds, grants, fundraising and sales. Considering historical and local charitable trusts to approach for funding. Examining Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). *Needs data on costs required for planning.*

Mr. DeAscentis asked the members of the subcommittee to review the letter received from Laura Wernick, AIA. Ms. Wernick outlined a 10-15 month timeline for a voter bond approval, and provided a Feasibility Study Outline. It was discussed that many of the bulleted items in the outline have been touched upon by the subcommittee to some degree.

The following agenda items for the next meeting were discussed:

1. Draft plan of the ideal 21st Century elementary delivery program
2. Discussion of RFP for outside consultant/feasibility study/timeline
3. Outreach plan
4. Define community requirements

Mr. DeAscentis thanked Mr. Carey for facilitating.

5.0 Next Steps

The next meeting of the Newport School Committee Facilities Planning Subcommittee will be at 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3rd, 2005, in Room 104, Lower Level, George H. Triplett Elementary School, 435 Broadway, Newport, RI. Agenda items will include the draft plan outline, discussion of an RFP for a Feasibility Study/Timeline, and Community Outreach Requirements and Plans.

Adjournment. Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr. Chairman called the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.



Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr.
Chairperson