

Lincoln High School Building Committee

Committee Meeting #V February 7, 2015 Minutes

Speakers: Joseph DaSilva and Mario Carreno from RIDE (Statewide Efficiencies)

Attendees Present:

Town Administrator T. Joseph Almond

Superintendent Georgia Fortunato

Director of Public Works Michael Gagnon

Finance Director John Ward

School Committee Member Kristine Donabedian

School Committee Member Julie Zito (Building Committee Co-chair)

School Committee Member Mary Anne Roll

Facilities Manager Armand Milazzo

Town Councilman Arthur (TJ) Russo, Jr. (Building Committee Co-chair)

Budget Board Member Mike Babbitt

Lincoln High School Principal Kevin McNamara

Lincoln Town Resident Laurie Cullen

Absent:

Town Councilman James Jahnz

School Committee Member John LaFleur

Town Planner Al Ranaldi, Jr.

Business Manager Lori Miller

Business:

Approval of Minutes: Joe Almond made a motion to approve the December 9, 2015 and January 10, 2015 minutes. Seconded by Mary Ann Roll;K..APPROVED.

Joseph DaSilva, RIDE consultant, discussed key issues:

He explained that the Educational Facility Master plan has four critical components:

„« Educational Framework

„« Condition

„« Enrollment

„« Cost

He presented an overview of the Lincoln High School Building and preliminary cost options for varying levels of renovation and construction. He spoke of minor renovations (paint walls and wallpaper) to moderate renovations (replace some systems) to major renovations (replacing every system and building walls).

„§Demographics;” needs to be its own committee to discuss:

„« How many students the building is going to serve? Presently there are 912 students in the HS.

„« Interview staff on needs. The more constituents that are engaged in the process, the more will facilitate you passing the bond.

„« What is the ideology moving forward?

Joe Almond asked him if we presently know what the criteria may be and the priority of what projects the State will fund. Joe Almond doesn't think the State will fund it this year, but they may know what the criteria and plan will be. Joe DaSilva stated the needs are educationally based as compared to physically based. The trends are leaning toward small learning communities. Students perform better in small groups. He recommended that members start working alongside an educational consultant to figure out what type of approach they would like to take in renovating the high school. He stated "Just because you have an existing building doesn't mean you can't have these learning rooms".

Technology is one of the strongest components in redoing a school, as teachers and students focus less on lectures and more on projects:

„« Joe DaSilva presented an example of the students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. MIT created a laboratory where students can work in groups on separate computers, yet each computer is connected to a giant screen.

„« Another example, he told the committee, is an environmental science lab that has direct access to the outside of the building.

„« He pointed out that classrooms are not just classrooms anymore. They are a high performance learning environments.

The Committee must consider certain aspects like ventilation and lighting:

„« Joe DaSilva pointed out that with too much lighting, or not enough

fresh air, students and teachers can become fatigued and tired by the afternoon.

„« He pointed out that one of the things they've learned is that fresh air and quality spaces are key to productive learning.

„« Regarding spaces, he said the committee could look into knocking down walls in the corridors to create a more open and fluent structure.

TJ Russo said he noticed, while taking a tour of the school in January, that logistically the campus lacks a sense of order. He pointed out that one gymnasium is located on the southern portion of the campus, while the second gymnasium, with a training room, is located on the northern portion of the campus. Logistically, that needs to be consolidated.

Strongly recommended to hire an educational consultant first:

„« Joe DaSilva strongly recommended hiring an educational consultant first in order to put together what the committee is looking for educational-wise. Julie Zito asked if he could send the Committee a listing of educational consultants and he agreed to send the list of those who responded to RFPs throughout the State. He suggested we look at CEFPI (Council of Educational Facility Planners International).

„« Joe Almond stated that the Town has a target date of 2018. He asked if we have a reasonable time frame from now to the financing of construction. Joe DaSilva told the committee there is plenty of time to fully put together a plan, before introducing legislation in the

spring of 2018 for housing aid. The Committee would need about 8 months for full engagement of the community and a year from the vision to the design drawing.

„« RIDE offers assistance to all communities. RIDE has guidelines that are 15 years old. These should be treated as guidelines and not requirements.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM

Joanne McManus, Building Committee Secretary