

Pelham High School Facilities Committee
June 22, 2009

Attendees: Eleanor Burton, Sean Minute, Rob Hardy, Brian Carton, Dr. Mohr, Chris Marion, Daryle Hillsgrove, Dr. Mohr, Hal Lynde, Brenda Hobbs

- 1 Sean opened meeting at 7:15.
- 2 Sean asked about how the land search should be conducted.
 - a) Eleanor stated the PSB will coordinate the land search.
 - b) Eleanor stated the PSB will have to address the charge of the committee now that the recommendation has been presented. She indicated she thought the committee would be more of a marketing effort of the proposal.
 - c) Eleanor stated the PSB accepted and approved of the report by the committee. She asked the committee if they wanted the land search to start.
 - i) The committee said yes.
- 3 Discussion on June 25th Open Forum
 - a) Eleanor stated the principles of the schools were asked to discuss the impacts of the budget cuts. The principal's presentation would start at 7:30.
 - b) The committee was asked to present the presentation from the PSB meeting, starting approximately 8:00 PM.
 - c) The committee agreed that Chris would present the presentation as she did before.
 - d) Eleanor stated questions will come out of the presentation.
 - e) Rob asked who would be at the open forum.
 - i) Eleanor stated two board members are confirmed.
 - f) Daryle asked if the BOS would want to see the presentation.
 - i) Hal stated it would be an opportunity for a public forum even though the BOS doesn't make a decision on it.
 - g) Daryle asked about giving it to the Budget Committee as they expressed via Bob Sherman the Budget Committee wanted to see it.
 - i) Daryle questioned if we wanted to meet Budget Committee before full budgeting season gets under way.
 - ii) Eleanor stated Budget Committee meets Mondays and Thursday and we should contact Larry Hall.
 - iii) Chris asked if we would want to use same presentation for Budget Committee or modify it to address questions.
 - iv) Brenda felt we needed to see the Budget Committee early.
 - v) Dr. Mohr asked when the PSB would start to discuss it with Budget Committee for next March's election.
 - vi) Daryle stated right now we market how we got to the decision.
 - (1) Sean asked if the Budget Committee talked about things prior to the warrant article.
 - (2) Hal stated we need to build grassroots efforts up to the warrant article.
 - 4 Replacement Members
 - a) Chris asked about replacement members for the committee.
 - b) Brian Mahoney has resigned.
 - c) Eleanor stated Dr. Bass was accepting letters from interested people.
 - d) It was asked if Hal Lynde and Bob Sherman would continue with the committee to represent their boards.

- e) Hal responded he would.
 - f) Bob S was not in attendance to answer. We will need to follow up with him.
- 5 Cost for Recommendation.
- a) Eleanor stated the final numbers for the cost of a school could change once all the information was prepared for a warrant article.
 - b) Eleanor stated the PSB still has work to do to decide what will be put on the warrant article.
 - c) Dr. Mohr stated there is usually a bid process and often this would be run by an architect.
 - i) Sean asked about the bid process.
 - (1) Eleanor stated first the land needs to be selected then an architect..
 - (2) Hal Lynde indicated there are different approaches.
 - (a) An architect could handle the bid process
 - (b) A project manager could be hired to handle the bid process.
 - (c) Hal indicated he had questions as to which approach should be used.
- 6 Sean asked what would be on the ballot.
- a) Eleanor stated the PSB would decide.
 - b) Sean asked what the committee should do in the interim.
 - i) Eleanor stated the committee should continue discussing the presentation with people.
 - ii) Daryle asked if there are specific forums we should be at and do we need an invitation or can we reach out to the community?
 - iii) Eleanor said reaching out and even community teas could be used get information to the residents and she felt the committee could talk to anyone.
 - (1) Eleanor stated she will put the revised charge to the committee as an Agenda item for the PSB and expected to have it by the Open Forum.
 - (2) Daryle asked for clarification on what they could do.
 - (3) Dr. Mohr stated that at some point the committee will have to move forward with the solution.
 - (4) Daryle stated the questions will help generate what is needed to gain support.
 - (5) Daryle suggested Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheets on certain areas.
 - (6) Chris M. stated we need the charter and new members.
 - (7) Eleanor asked how many.
 - (8) Brenda Hobbs suggested 2 as too many would make it difficult to bring them up to speed with the rest of the committee.
 - (9) Hal asked about how to market a new school.
 - (a) Hal was asked for clarification.
 - (b) Eleanor said she wanted to keep the same committee and go to the next stage of the project.
 - (c) Sean stated the committee would not get involved with the land, it was the responsibility of the PSB.
- 7 Chris asked if we should stay with the same presentation or modify it?
- a) Brenda felt for the open forum it should be the same presentation that went to the PSB.
 - b) Dr. Mohr agreed with the statement.
 - c) The committee agreed to present the same presentation.
 - d) Chris asked if we could go over the presentation and discuss the weaker areas to be better prepared.
 - i) Slide 24- Financial discussion on kindergarten.
 - (1) Eleanor stated the 4 school model with renovation of the high school would be for 2 grades and could be a Junior High or 7&8- Upper Elementary.

- (2) Eleanor stated pre-school needed to be included in the long term plan as St. Pats was not an option. The town would have to spend significant money to add sprinklers to St. Pats and it would be cost prohibitive.
- (3) Brian C stated our recommendation is to build a new HS on a new site. The rest of the recommendation identified options only.
 - (a) Brian pointed out that both have strength and weaknesses.
- (4) Brenda stated we made a decision to go with new on new and we should not discuss renovation, which is not an option.
- (5) Sean asked if the two grades could move in immediately when high school empty.
 - (a) Daryle stated there are still some things that need to be done. The PSB would decide when the rest of the needs are taken care of.
- (6) Hal stated we need to identify the benefit to people.
 - (a) Dr. Mohr asked for clarification on the question.
 - (i) Hal questioned if a complete package will get more support.
 - 1. Chris stated there may be trade-offs, you will have some increased staffing with four schools.
 - 2. Hal stated that he struggled with if the renovation was not included originally, it will have to come up at some point. Should we evaluate it over the long term.
 - (ii) Dr. M stated the current high school could not be touched until the students are moved out.
 - 1. Chris stated it's a PSB decision. The PSB will have to work out a plan.
 - (iii) Hal stated that if it's just a High School comparison, the renovation was estimated to be 3 million lower.
 - 1. Brian Carton said it was less than 10% difference in the prices. Long term a new high school gives a better long term development strategy for the town.
 - 2. Daryle stated we know there will be costs down the road. The voters will determine when.
 - 3. Brenda stated that Londonderry did it in small plans and it was a lot more.
 - 4. Eleanor stated we may be able to estimate cost on taxes.
 - a. Chris stated out intent could be to share information in whatever forms possible as soon as it's available.
 - b. Sean stated we can only make assumptions.
 - c. Daryle stated we need to put together financials that the average person can understand.
- ii) Brian C asked for clarification on Slide 3
 - (1) Sean stated from the second meeting on, we worked to understand needs.
 - (2) Eleanor stated the committee went through why the High school wasn't meeting needs. Some families are evaluating private schools. Brenda stated 78% went on to higher education.
 - (3) Dr. Mohr stated kids are accepted at high level schools, but can't afford to go to Ivy League schools.
- iii) The committee decided to answer questions as asked when we go through the presentation at the open forum.
- iv) Daryle stated if we run out of time, we can always schedule another meeting.
 - (1) She also stated a PTV show with question and answers may be a way to get out information.

- (2) Sean stated there was not a lot of replay of the May 27th meeting.
 - (a) Chris asked if we could try to get more replays this week on PTV.
- (3) Hal stated we could develop a video of the issues.
 - (a) Dr. Mohr stated a grassroots group, ACES is working to get one made.
 - (b) Daryle described the ACES group in more detail as she has been involved with them.
 - (i) The group stands for Awareness& Community Education and Support.
 - (ii) The group wants to build a sense of community and bring groups together more for common goals.
 - (iii) Supporting the School System is one part but the group is also working on voter guide information.
 - 1. Brenda asked if the “education” stood for more than just schools and was also to educate the community on voting and government.
 - 2. Daryle replied yes, that was correct.
 - 3. Hal stated the Community Spirit group may also help with spreading information.
 - 4. Daryle suggested tables at the Concerts on the green.
 - 5. Daryle asked about getting a common email for the committee similar to the PSB email. Emails could be sent in and sent out to all the committee members. Responses to emails would be a committee response, not an individual’s response.
 - 6. Dr. Mohr was going to look into getting it set up.
 - 7. Chris asked who was attending the open forum from the committee.
 - 8. Daryle, Rob, Sean, Brian C and Eleanor all stated they would attend.
 - 9. Daryle stated we should support the person presenting by being near them but not necessarily all at tables if the forum was to have residents sit in the circle. The committee could sit behind the presenters.
- 8 Eleanor stated Dr. Bass could arrange for the committee to visit other high schools such as Windham and Kingston which are newer.
- 9 Brian C asked if we focuses on positive things or negative in the video?
 - a) Daryle stated we need to balance it. We need to educate on the needs and how the solution will benefit the needs. Different groups will be more concerned about certain issues.
 - b) Daryle stated we need to develop a marketing strategy.
 - c) Sean stated he thought we should focus on the positive.
 - d) Eleanor stated we need to explain the benefits.
- 10 Accreditation discussion:
 - a) Dr. Mohr was asked if there had been any response to the recent letter. .
 - b) Dr. Mohr stated we should find out our current status in the Fall when the Accreditation board meets again.
 - c) Eleanor pointed out we also need an approval from the state and our current approval is only good until January.
 - d) Sean asked if there was a dollar cost per student if we lost accreditation.
 - e) Dr. Mohr said no, we won’t lose funding. It will make it harder for students to get accepted at colleges. She further explained that if we lose state approval, we lose state funding.
 - i) Dr. Mohr used an analogy to explain the accreditation, she asked if you would go to a doctor that wasn’t licensed? She explained that you wouldn’t want to send a child to a non accredited school. Dr. Mohr explained very few schools choose not to be accredited.

- ii) Daryle stated that accreditation for schools sounded like the ISO 9000 for a business, it sets a certain quality standard for the business.
 - (1) Dr. Mohr stated that was correct, accreditation indicates a quality of the education.
 - (2) Hal stated we need to be fluent in the state approval and accreditation information.
 - (3) Hal also stated we need to understand state aid.
 - (4) Brenda Hobbs stated that accreditation and the state approval are not tied together, they are independently evaluated.
 - (a) Dr. Mohr stated that was correct and the marketing efforts need to explain the approval.
 - (5) Eleanor stated the State Approval was a vote of 3 to 2 to give us approval and it is a conditional approval extended until January 2010.
 - (6) Minutes from 5/11 approved with some edits.

11 Agenda for next meetings:

- a) Discuss marketing deliverables.
- b) Hal suggested a storyboard for the video.
- c) Chris suggested we work off line and bring items back to meetings for review.
- d) Dr. Mohr suggested we identify 5 to 7 messages we want to provide to residents.
- e) Daryle identified some events where it may be good to have people. She will bring a list.
- f) Other items:
 - i) Talk with Jeff Gowan on marketing strategies.
 - ii) Talk with Community Development group.
 - iii) Survey discussion has been tables, there is a lot of talk going on in the community and the effectiveness of a survey at this time was questionable.

Meeting adjourned approximately 9PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Daryle Hillsgrove