

MEETING MINUTES

Middle School Building Committee Meeting

October 7, 2013 – 8:00 a.m.

**BOE Conference Room, 3rd Floor Annex Building,
5 Linsley Street, North Haven, CT**

Committee Members in Attendance:

Goldie Adele, Michael Brandt, Miriam Brody, Lou Coppola, Sr., Gary Johns, Walter Nester, Jr., Joseph Porto, Michelle Spader, Dyann Vissicchio

Absent:

Bruce Morris

Others in Attendance:

Robert Cronin, Kristine Carling, Phil Piazza, Edward Swinkoski, Michael Freda, Jeffery Donofrio, Valerie Goodkin

As acting temporary Chairman, Mr. Freda called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

Mr. Freda welcomed everyone to the meeting and made introductions. He explained that these are public meetings. He also noted that he intends to add an additional member to the committee to provide a voice to the parents with regard to sports fields. He would like to add Dave Mikos. That will need to be brought before the Board of Selectmen and then to a town meeting for approval.

Attorney Jeff Donofrio explained his role as a guide for the committee. He provided the committee with an explanation of the responsibilities of the committee. He explained their charge right now is to determine their recommendation for the project. He explained to the committee that he is there to answer any of their questions and act as a guide.

Mr. Freda opened the floor for nominations of a Committee Chairman; Michael Brandt motioned the nomination of Gary Johns as Chairman. Walter Nester seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Freda opened the floor for nominations of a Committee Vice Chairman; Gary Johns motioned the nomination of Dyann Vissicchio as Vice Chairman. Michelle Spader seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Freda opened the floor for nominations of a Committee Secretary; Dyann Vissicchio motioned the nomination of Michelle Spader as Secretary. Lou Coppola seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

With the election of officers determined, Mr. Freda noted that the next order of business was to set future meeting dates. Goldie Adel motioned to approve the schedule of meeting every other Monday at 8:15 am. Gary Johns seconded the

motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Freda then opened the floor to Jeff Donofrio who provided the group with an overview for a plan of action and approach to determining a recommendation for the project. A discussion ensued with suggestions from Mr. Donofrio. Several of Mr. Donofrio's suggestions included developing a plan of action, a list of tasks needed to perform in order to make a recommendation for the project and a schedule for doing so. He suggested bringing in the professionals that authored the feasibility report as well as making site visits early on in the process to evaluate each of the locations to understand the attributes and potential challenges for each. Gary Johns suggested bringing in the former Chairman of the High School building Committee. The discussion continued at length including statutory parameters, reimbursement rates and the reimbursement process.

Michelle Spader inquired about an option that was not identified in the report and that was to utilize Gateway as swing space while renovating as new the existing middle school. The group discussed this and agreed to pursue this further.

Joseph Porto asked how the committee goes about getting answers to questions. Mike responded that basically questions should be formulated and presented to the Chairman and he will determine who to access for the answer and present at the next meeting.

Mr. Freda asked if there were any comments from the public. Sally Buemi, Blossom Drive, shared two comments. One was she did not think that the option of utilizing Gateway was a good idea because we can't control the price or when it will be available for purchase. Also, there was a lot of opposition to the location of that school being in the Northeast corner of town. She also feels it would impact the school bus system going from two tier back to three and also feels there is an advantage to having the high school and middle school near each other.

Secondly, Ms. Buemi commented that she also thought of using Gateway as a temporary location in order to speed up the construction.

There being no additional public comment, Goldie Adele motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dyann Vissicchio seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 am.

Respectfully submitted:

Valerie Goodkin, Acting Secretary