

Approved Meeting Minutes

Middle School Building Committee Meeting

June 9, 2014 – 8:15 am

BOE Conference Room, 3rd Floor Annex Building

5 Linsley Street, North Haven, CT

Committee Members in Attendance:

Goldie Adele, Miriam Brody, Michael Brandt, Lou Coppola, Sr., Gary Johns (committee chairman), David Mikos, Bruce Morris, Walter Nester, Jr., Joseph Porto, Michelle Spader (committee secretary), Dyann Vissicchio (committee vice-chair)

Absent: None

Others in Attendance: Kristine Carling, Dr. Robert Cronin, Phil Diana, Graham Curtis & Sydney Smith of DTC, and Jeff Donofrio.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Johns at 8:15 am.

Motion made by Bruce Morris to approve the meeting minutes from the June 2, 2014 meeting. It was seconded by Lou Coppola and unanimously passed.

Michelle Spader asked that a change be made to the previously approved minutes of the May 23, 2014 meeting. Despite being unanimously approved, Spader noticed that names were missing. Spader asked that Michael Brandt and Dave Mikos should be added as absent, and Joe Porto be added as being in attendance at that meeting.

Motion to edit the approved meeting minutes from May 23, 2014 was made by Bruce Morris and seconded by Goldie Adele.

Old Business:

Mike Brandt stated that he responded, on behalf of the committee, to the emails sent to the project's email address. There was one that questioned the financial impact of the project, and Brandt said that he must speak with Ed Swinkoski in order to get this question completed. Brandt sent Swinkoski a draft of his response, but said Swinkoski wanted to discuss it prior to the response being sent to the person that submitted the question.

Spader shared with the committee that at the Board of Selectman meeting on June 5, 2014 the committee's request to move the voting signs back to the normal polling places was successful. Spader also informed the committee that the Middle School Building Project was a topic of conversation throughout the entire meeting and that she fielded questions from the selectman as well as cleared up inaccuracies that were discussed during the meeting, including Gary Amato's false claim that children were handing out "Vote Yes" flyers at the Memorial Day parade. Spader explained that she presented the flyer that was handed out, to prove it was simply a "Mark the Date". There was also public comment that was anti-synthetic turf.

Vissicchio reminded the committee that the deadline for Letters to the Editor for the Advisor is Wednesday at 5 pm.

New Business –

2 new emails were submitted to the project's email address. One was a person looking for a "Vote Yes" lawn sign. Brandt informed the individual that signs could not be obtained through the committee. Another was asking what it would cost to renovate the school in order for it to be in compliance and what would happen if we were not in compliance. Dr. Cronin explained that students applying out to high schools would have difficulties coming from a non-accredited middle school. The district will still have to come up with a plan for improvement, which would cost millions. The roof alone is \$4 to 5 million and then you must factor in electrical, mechanical, and abatement, to name a few. It is estimated to easily cost at least \$30 million and it would only extend the life of the school approximately 20 years, and put you within minimal code compliance. However, if we were to apply for any state grants to help pay for a portion of the renovations, we would also have to make sure it included the new safety and security standards that become effective July 1, 2014. Also, take into consideration that there is no longer "swing space" to move the students to while the work is going on and you must also include the use of portable classrooms, which is a security concern, as well as the potential for a lengthier construction phase since children are occupying all the areas that need to be renovated.

Motion to approve the answers to the 2 letters was made by Bruce Morris and seconded by Miriam Brody. Motion unanimously passed.

Subcommittee reports:

Marketing –

Dyann Vissicchio mentioned that the posters were delivered to the schools and various other town buildings to remind people to vote in the referendum on June 17, 2014. Reminders to vote will be going home with students in the elementary schools. Various businesses in town are displaying the voting reminders in their windows or have flyers available for people to take with them. Walter Nester said he has been passing out the reminder flyers near his home. Flyers are also being disbursed at the softball, baseball and soccer fields. 7 sandwich boards reminding people of the referendum have also been placed at busy intersections throughout town. Various sports organizations have been sending reminders via email to their teams.

Gary Johns mentioned that the roadshow at the firehouse on Middletown Ave. on June 5, 2014 was well attended. People were very engaged and asked good questions. Johns also mentioned that the final roadshow was held at the library on June 6, 2014 at 11 am.

Johns also told the committee that the video featuring Phil Piazza and Mark McCarthy was completed and had been delivered to NHTV to begin airplay.

Spader mentioned that this evening there would be a PTA Council meeting, and that she wrote a personal letter (not on behalf of the committee) to the Council asking for their assistance in the GOTV effort. The letter will be read to the Council by Julie Bossenberry and will also be sent to the PTA presidents in the hope that they will send it out to their members as an email blast.

Spader also said that the committee has decided against setting up a table at the June 10 concert on the green, noting the earlier start time, the fact that families were less likely to come out since this was a school night, and the act was not likely to draw the target demographic. Spader asked Dave Mikos if preparations were complete for the Spring Brawl and he said they were.

The committee decided to have a presence at the green on Monday, June 16 for the high school band and jazz band concert as well as on Tuesday, June 17 for the second show in the 'Concert on the Green' series. Sydney Smith said the Facebook posts are doing well and receiving a lot of interaction and she will look at the insights on the website.

The next meeting will be Monday, June 16, 2014.

There was a motion to adjourn at 9 am by Bruce Morris and seconded by Michael Brandt and unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Spader
Committee Secretary