

Board of Education Minutes  
Tri-Board Meeting  
August 25, 2016

**DRAFT**

A joint meeting of the Boards of Selectmen, Finance and Education was held on Thursday, August 25, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler High School Gymnasium Band Room. Present for the Board of Selectmen were Mr. Murphy and Mr. Donahue; present for the Board of Finance were Mr. Pavlovics and Mrs. Howell; and present for the Board of Education were Mr. Carlson, Mr. Mathwich, Mr. Karpinski, Mrs. Wagner, and Mr. Mendolia (7:22 p.m.). Also present was Mr. Nero and Mr. Urgo. The meeting started at 7:06 p.m. Mr. Donahue had opening comments.

2. Public Comments – M. Donahue (BOS) – None.

3. Follow-up on School Modernization Effort – R. Carlson (BOE) - Mr. Urgo spoke of the USDA loan and said there are still things we need to do for them. A matrix/ranking process was put together. Quisenberry Arcari was architectural firm selected. He explained the process. The walk-through for the construction manager was held. Bids were received and they will be reviewing those. The committee hopes to have one in place by the end of September. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Urgo said he will be speaking to the faculty on their first day of school on Monday. He said they will be meeting with faculty for their feedback. Mr. Urgo explained why there is a need for a construction manager and said that was part of their budget on the project. Mr. Carlson had comment and explanation of why a construction manager is beneficial. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Urgo said the most likely scenario is that the high school/middle school is built first. The elementary school students would move to the middle school during construction and then in to their new building. Mr. Nero had comment. Further questions were asked and answered. Mr. Urgo talked about having a meeting with the State. They have a time table set up. There was discussion. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Mathwich had comment. There was discussion on being “shovel ready.” Mr. Donahue commended the committee on their hard work. There was comment from different Board members. Financing from the USDA was discussed. Mr. Urgo commended Mr. Murphy for his work on the loan. Mr. Urgo had further comment on what needs to happen next. Mr. Mathwich had comment. Mr. Murphy explained some of the terms of the USDA loan and elaborated. Questions were asked and answered.

Mr. Nero spoke of the testing results that just came out and said they were excellent. He reviewed the SAT scores. Questions were asked and answered. He reviewed the SBAC results. He said all these tests are computer-driven and he elaborated. Further questions were asked and answered. Mr. Nero had further comment. Mr. Nero reviewed the elementary SBAC test scores. He had further comment and said we have a good school system here. There was comment from Board members. He said this is a true testament to what the town has put into us.

4. Future Topics/Format for Tri-Board Discussions – M. Donahue (BOS) – Mr. Donahue said the core committee got together and came up with some items that could be discussed at further meetings.

Five Year Plan / Strategic Planning for Town – Mr. Donahue had comment.

Presentations / Discussion with Other Commissions – He said this has always been a good forum for communication and thought other Boards and commissions could come to meetings and present so everyone can hear it at the same time. He elaborated.

Cost Reduction Approaches – Mr. Donahue said they hear from constituents about being frugal and he elaborated.

Economic Development Plans and Strategies – Mr. Donahue said there are always questions about what is happening in town. It could be a good idea to have the Committee come to a meeting.

Mr. Nero spoke of the Consortium's effort to go to bid on different services as a whole. He elaborated. There was comment.

Mrs. Wagner spoke of the Plan of Conservation and Development and thought that would be a great presentation. Mr. Pavlovics suggested getting any documentation to the Tri-Board ahead of time so it can be reviewed. There was further comment. Mr. Pavlovics asked how we can best take advantage of the new buildings and will there be any unforeseen costs and he elaborated. Mr. Urgo had comment on that. Mr. Pavlovics had further comment on expenses that we are not prepared for. There was discussion. Mrs. Wagner wanted to see other expenses discussed as well. She would like to see the community come together for other things and not just the building project. Mr. Carlson had comment. He said the Tri-Board would be a good place for people to get all their information instead of having to pick and choose their meetings. There was comment. Mr. Donahue said we have to balance the sharing of information with the benefit of bringing the Boards together to look forward. There was further comment. There was discussion of things happening in Town and that we are on the move. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Donahue said he always hears that nobody knows what is going on and he elaborated. Mr. Murphy said the town meeting for the budget is on September 6<sup>th</sup> and the referendum is on September 20<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion. Mr. Donahue asked what the group should prioritize next month. Mr. Karpinski suggested the EDC for next month. There was discussion. Mrs. Howell had comment. There was discussion about having the EDC come to the meeting. Mrs. Wagner thought an agenda that was similar for each meeting would be a good idea. There was discussion. Mr. Donahue had comment.

9. General Discussion – Boards – Covered above.

10. Next Meeting – C. Howell (BOF) – The next meeting will be on September 22<sup>nd</sup> in the high school media center. Mr. Carlson said with the building project, we had a lot of attendance but now that has dropped off and had further comment.

11. Public Comments – M. Donahue (BOS) – There was comment about the meeting being in a different location.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education