

Board of Education Minutes  
Tri-Board Meeting  
November 5, 2015

**DRAFT**

A joint meeting of the Boards of Selectmen, Finance and Education was held on Thursday, November 5, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler High School Gymnasium Band Room. Present for the Board of Selectmen were Mr. Mullane, Mr. Testa, and Mr. Donahue; present for the Board of Finance were Mr. Pavlovics, Mr. Woodward, Mr. Main, and Mr. Ratib; and present for the Board of Education were Mr. Karpinski, Mrs. Wagner, and Mr. Carlson. Also present was Mr. Nero and members of the Ad Hoc Building Committee. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Mr. Donahue. He welcomed everyone. He spoke of conversations from the last meeting.

2. Public Comments – M. Donahue (BOS) – Mrs. Nita Kincaid spoke to members of the Ad Hoc Committee present and suggested they may want to submit an article to the North Stonington Quarterly.

3. Ad Hoc Committee Report Venue – Ad Hoc Committee – Mr. Donahue introduced Mr. Mike Urgo, Chairman. Mike Osborn, Chris Anderson, and Jay Peterson were present from the committee. Mr. Urgo said the committee decided to meet weekly. They started by talking about the current school footprint and he elaborated. They were trying to look at all options. He said they started to discuss the different approaches to renovation. The committee would like to go with a “renovate as new” scenario. The reimbursement rate is at 46% for us right now and he elaborated. He explained what “renovate as new” means and gave examples. Mr. Urgo said they decided to speak with the architect that has been used in the past because of their familiarity with us. He said he had walked through the buildings today and elaborated. Some of the decisions they will be making will be testing for hazmat issues. They want to look at what we are really dealing with. They want to get a more accurate figure for that portion of the project. He spoke of the sixth grade moving back to the elementary school and he elaborated. He spoke of the educational benefit and the cost standpoint with the reimbursement. Mr. Urgo said they want to stay on the timeline that was put forward. They don’t want to rush with a presentation to the Tri-Board. He thought they may have something more substantial for the Tri-Board within the next couple of weeks. He said the committee is working hard and is proud of what they have accomplished so far. Mr. Peterson wondered what they have spent so far and wondered about the testing costs. Mr. Urgo responded. He elaborated. Mr. Woodward had comment on the committee needing more funding. Mr. Nero spoke of the architect fees. He said we use Eagle Environmental for testing and elaborated. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Urgo explained what he envisioned for his next meeting with the Tri-Board. Mr. Testa asked questions about the scope of the project changing. Mr. Main commented on the committee’s contingency and not cutting it down to nothing. Mr. Urgo explained the costs that were included in the last project and explained the differences. Mrs. Wagner commented on the presentation and thanked the committee. Mr. Pavlovics commented on the scope of work and the cost and asked which way the committee was leaning. Mr. Urgo explained they were originally looking at bringing in a project at a lower cost but they also want to meet the needs but not go overboard. He elaborated. They are putting together a project that is very conservative. Mr. Urgo said the primary concern is putting together the right project. There was discussion of what would be presented at the next meeting. Mr. Urgo said he would hope to show them

buildings and an overview of what they were looking at. Mr. Carlson asked if they would be looking at one plan or more than one plan. Mr. Urgo said their goal was to come to the Board with one plan and elaborated. Mr. Urgo had further comment. Mr. Testa commented on addressing the needs. Mr. Urgo said the committee has tried not to analyze why past projects failed. They are focusing on putting together a project that meets the needs. They are aware of the shortfalls of previous projects. They are still digesting information and he is hoping to have something in the next few weeks. Mr. Pavlovics asked what the shortcomings of previous projects were. He said they haven't analyzed why things have failed and he elaborated. Mr. Urgo said they want it palatable to the town. Mr. Peterson said they knew there was an absolute minimum that they needed to do. He said they took it from there. Mr. Donahue said one of the tasks of the committee was to stick to the guidelines they were given and he elaborated. Mr. Donahue asked if the Tri-Board needed to do anything. Mr. Urgo said he would work on getting a proposal. Mr. Nero said we work with Ashis Roychowdhury at Eagle Environmental. Mr. Mullane said to get the proposal and get it to him to bring to the Selectmen. He elaborated. There was discussion. The next Tri-Board meeting will be Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room.

4. Discussion – Boards – Mr. Carlson said he spoke to Mr. Lord. The Permanent School Planning and Building Committee will be invited to the next Tri-Board meeting. Mr. Pavlovics questioned whether there may be a change in mission for the PSPBC. Mr. Carlson said there needs to be a stewardship of caretaking of the buildings regarding keeping all the paperwork, etc. in one place. Mr. Nero asked if there was anything stating what the duties of the committee are and Mr. Donahue said that there is an ordinance. Mr. Nero asked for a copy. There was comment. Mr. Pavlovics thought there should be closer collaboration between the PSPBC and the Ad Hoc Committee. He elaborated and gave examples. There was further discussion. Mr. Testa reminded the group that the Board of Selectman is responsible for the project. He elaborated. There was further comment. Mr. Donahue said we have made good progress this evening.

5. Next Meeting – R. Carlson (BOE) – November 23, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheeler Gymnasium Band Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta T. McCarthy, Secretary to  
The Board of Education