

School Facilities Review Committee Minutes
March 7, 2016, 5:30 PM
City Hall, Room 335

Dennis Slopak called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Committee Members Present: Superintendent Abby Dolliver, Mayor Debercy Hinchey, Board of Education Member and Committee Chair Dennis Slopak, Facilities Supervisor Dolores Thayer, Board of Education Member Angelo Yeitz, Alderwoman Joanne Philbrick, and Board of Education Member Kevin Saythany

Committee Members Excused: Comptroller Joshua Pothier and Business Administrator Athena Nagel

Others Present: Susan Blinderman, Lara Garber, Gabe Lipman, Mike Seroussi, Member of the Press Claire Bessette and Recording Secretary Melinda Wilson

Presenters: Bruce Kellogg, Doreen Martin of JCJ Architecture

Determination of Quorum: It was determined a quorum was present.

Prior Meeting Minutes: On a motion by Abby Dolliver, seconded by Deb Hinchey, the minutes of December 7, 2015 were unanimously approved as presented.

Citizen Comment: None

Old Business: None

New business: Bruce Kellogg of JCJ Architecture handed out printed copies of the survey results. They are also beginning to compile data on the existing buildings, including surveying the sites with engineers.

Doreen Martin reported on the survey and forum results. JCJ held several forums throughout the district. The results handed out through page 24 were non-edited responses to the online survey. The data was left in its raw format in order for the Committee to see it exactly as it was entered. Pages 25-47 included feedback from the community forums.

Doreen concluded that the feedback from the focus groups and the online survey do not give clear results. There was general consensus for bus rides under an hour. The comments do demonstrate that respondents find configuration of the schools within the city important. There were many comments about K-8 schools. Increasing infrastructure and technology were recurring themes.

Doreen advised Committee members to read through the comments with a very neutral eye.

Angelo noted the city neighborhoods were very well represented. One hundred thirty-seven (137) residents responded to the electronic survey. It was available on the Norwich Public Schools and City of Norwich websites. Including those who attended the forums, approximately 200 people were reached for comment. Discussion ensued about the diversity represented at the forums.

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Bruce gave a summary of the next steps for JCJ. Moving forward, they will work concurrently on the demographics data and studying the facilities. Engineering teams have been touring the facilities. He thanked Delores Thayer for leading tours through the schools. He said insight from the facilities staff is valuable. Doreen will begin looking at the demographic study by Cabe.

Bruce outlined a schedule going forward, including the topics covered at the SFRC meetings through June. He will have more specifics in April. On April 4th options will be presented without budget figures tied to them. On May 2nd the associated budgets will be presented. By the end of June they will have a final plan to go forward for referendum.

Delores and Athena Nagel are going to a state school construction meeting at the Office of School Construction Grants on April 4th. Doreen suggested Athena and Delores give a presentation at the April 4th SFRC meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding the lack of public transportation availability to the schools.

Old Business: None

Adjournment: On a motion by Angelo Yeitz, seconded by Abby Dolliver, the meeting adjourned at 6:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Melinda Wilson
Recording Secretary