

**School Facilities Review Committee Minutes**  
**May 16, 2016, 5:30 PM**  
**City Hall, Room 335**  
**Special Meeting**

Chair 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, Alderwoman Joanne Philbrick, Board of Education Member Angelo Yeitz, Facilities Supervisor Dolores Thayer and Business Administrator Athena Nagel

**Committee Members Excused:** Comptroller Joshua Pothier

**Others Present:** Alderwoman Stacy Gould, Member of the Press Kevin Gorden, Recording Secretary Melinda Wilson, and several citizens

**Presenters:** Bruce Kellogg, JCJ Architecture; Doreen Marvin, LEARN; Ken Biega, O&G Industries

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

**Prior Meeting Minutes:** On a motion by Mayor Deb Hinchey, seconded by Alderwoman Joanne Philbrick, the minutes of April 4, 2016 were unanimously approved with the addition of Alderwoman Stacey Gould among Others Present.

**Citizen Comment:** Gabe Lipman identified herself as a teacher in the Norwich Public School system. She brought the Committee's attention to sections of Chapter 3 of School Reform Proposals: The Research Evidence, a series of literature reviews initiated by the Education Policy Studies Laboratory (EPSL) at Arizona State University, entitled Small School Study by Craig Howley, ERIC Clearinghouse on Rural Education and Small Schools. She handed out a printed summary Mr. Howley's review on the importance of small schools. She requested that committee members read the research summary as it is pertinent to the questions at hand regarding optimizing education.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business: Considering Options with Costs**

Bruce Kellogg of JCJ Architecture displayed story boards with information on two of the options previously discussed at the last Committee meeting. Option A: one district-wide pre-K through sixth grade school with a campus setting includes Kelly Middle School as-is on a site to-be-determined and Option D: two pre-K through grade 2 current schools renovated as new, two grade 3 through grade 6 current schools renovated as new, and Kelly Middle School remaining as-is. The renovate-as-new is eligible for more reimbursement from the State than less thorough renovation. Based on visiting the existing schools in the NPS system and assessing their condition, including which ones have land enough to make an addition feasible, the team made the following suggestions. The two pre-k – 2 schools could be Mahan and Moriarty with the Grades 3 – 6 schools being Teachers & Stanton. The remaining buildings (schools) could be returned to the City. The story boards displayed possible concepts of additions to existing schools, as site plans.

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The estimated costs for the projects were produced by O&G, and presented by Bruce. Option A would total an estimated \$168 million total, with state reimbursement of \$100 million, leaving the district's cost at \$68 million. That does not include the cost of land or infrastructure improvements. Option D's total estimated costs were given at \$175 million, with state reimbursement of \$119 million and cost to the district of \$57 million.

Dennis asked about the location of special programs within the Options. Doreen Marvin of LEARN said Option D offers ability to adapt design to special educational programs and theme based learning. She referenced the Howley article as a resource they often use in planning. She said Option D gets the district close to the best practice.

Abby asked about the location of administration offices. Bruce suggested Huntington as a viable option since it had additions and renovations in 1999. Also, by keeping the building open within the district, the community could still use the gym and facilities. Space could also be leased. Administrative office space was not currently in either Option A or D. The state would give 50% of regular reimbursement rate for administrative space. Abby noted that Huntington could be utilized as a multi-use space. Doreen pointed out that is also has the technology infrastructure to make such a plan feasible.

Angelo Yeitz made a motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the availability of land for Option A. The motion was seconded by Deb Hinchey. Joanne questioned the addition to the agenda for executive session during a Special Meeting. Discussion ensued. Angelo removed his motion from consideration.

**Old Business:** None

**Adjournment:** On a motion by Deb Hinchey, seconded by Athena Nagel, the meeting adjourned at 6:06 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Melinda Wilson*  
*Recording Secretary*