

TOWN OF PORTLAND, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Special Joint Meeting with the Board of Education
May 24, 2023

BOS Present: Ryan Curley (First Selectman), John Dillon, Robert Hetrick, Jr., Shaun Manning, Michael Pelton, Ralph Zampano

BOS Absent: Michael Hernandez

BOE Present: Laurel A. Steinhauser-Chair, Stacey Benham, Timothy Lavoy, David Murphy, Meg Scata

BOE Absent: Kimberly Nagy-Maruschock, Sarah Spear

Others Present: Dr. Charles Britton-Superintendent of Schools; Lou Pear-Chair SFSC

1. First Selectman Ryan Curley called the special joint meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. in the Portland High School Auditorium located at 95 High Street, Portland, Connecticut.
2. Presentation on Schools Facilities Study Committee Report

School Facilities Study Committee: Lou Pear-Chair, Peter Filanda, Kerry Darby, Eileen L. Moynihan, Scott V. Nicol (Michael Hernandez & Robert Hetrick as BOS reps; Dave Murphy & Meg Scata as BOE reps)

Lou Pear introduced the session and then turned it over to Supt. Dr. Charles Britton who did a slide presentation on the School Modernization Plan. The entire presentation will be on the website.

The presentation consisted of the following:

- History of the Public Schools
- Current Situation: Reports from Sightlines and Friar Architects (10-year snapshot)
- Brainstormed foundation of priorities to consider options
- 3 Options
- Focus groups to engage community to see how they felt
- Chose Option 3: Decommission one elementary school and create a plan for capital improvements and new construction at 2 elementary schools
- Engage community to see how they felt. Do focus groups.
- Full support for priorities
- Full support and understanding that something must be done in immediate future to address aging infrastructure in the schools.
- Full support for downsizing the schools and decommissioning Gildersleeve.
- Decisions made by Committee
- Option 3: Decommission One Elementary School
 - Committee opted for this option for the following reasons:
Best potential to meet all of our identified priorities.

- Total annual savings from consolidating two elementary schools is projected at \$828,578 in 1st year of change.

Recommendations:

- BOS form a new facility study committee to determine what will happen to Gildersleeve Elementary School
- Form a Building Committee

A general discussion was held.

3. Adjourn special meeting

A motion was made by Shaun Manning, seconded by John Dillon, to adjourn the meeting, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon R. Hoy, Recording Clerk