

Portland Facilities Steering Committee Meeting

4/21/21

Minutes

Attendees

Board of Education: Charles Britton, Carl Johnson, Stephanie Fragola, Ryan Walstrom, Eileen Moynihan, Liz Paternostro

Board of Selectmen: Lou Pear, Mike Hernandez

Board of Education Members: Meg Scata, Dave Murphy

Parent Representatives: Peter Filanda, Scott Nicol

Community Representative: Mike Agogliati, Donna Finkelstein

Guests: Dr. Kate Carter, Superintendent, South Windsor Public Schools

Call to Order

Charles Britton called the meeting to order at 4:32pm

Kate Carter

Kate discussed her 10 year plan that South Windsor schools has adopted to replace 4 schools in the district with brand new buildings. The plan is from 2013-2023 and is on schedule and below budget at this time. The main points to take away from her overview are:

- Create a simple, single plan to present to the town, less confusing
- Use the highest enrollment # over an 8-year period for the projections
- Have a strong relationship with DAS and include them at the beginning of the process
- Closing a school has a negative impact to the community, try to repurpose the school and keep it as a BOE building in the event that it may be needed again for students
- If/when we go to referendum, make sure it is the only question on the referendum, do not do it during it election year
- Understand that it will take 2-3 years to put a "10-year plan" in place
- Community support is very important and necessary to help sell the plan
- Scott Nicol (Ellington Schools) recommends an OPM (Owner's Project Manager) from the beginning as his district hired one after the project was started and felt it is more beneficial to have one at the start of the project

Discussion of Process Used by Other School Districts

The committee discussed the possibility of hiring an OPM and agreed that it was a great asset in the South Windsor district and it would help with Portland's next steps.

Next Steps

It was unanimously agreed upon by the committee that Charles, Carl and Stephanie will create a limited RFP for an OPM to include enrollment studies, and to start the process with moving forward with our plan for the district buildings. Charles will put this on the May 4th BOE

meeting agenda and if this is approved by the BOE, then the RFP can go out in late May, and in June we can start looking at the responses and work with the Town Council and keep everyone informed.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 5:55pm by Charles Britton

The next meetings will be 5/12, & 6/9 via Google Meet @ 4:30pm