BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
Joseph F. Bilotta Meeting Room, Town Hall
November 7, 2018

Board of Selectmen: Jamie Toale, Chairman; Damon McQuaid, Clerk; Phyllis Luck, Member; Katey Adams, Member
Not present: Robert Ebersole, Vice Chairman
Also Present: Heather Lemieux, Town Manager; Dr. Kate Burnham, School Superintendent: John Londa, Facilities Director
School Committee Members: Heather Sroka, Chair; Wendy Bertrand, Vice Chair; Carol Archambault, Secretary; Meredith Weiss, Jim LaVeck

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

The School Committee conducted their business and then participated in the workshop with the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Toale called the Board of Selectmen meeting to order at 7:27 p.m. this and thanked the School Committee for meeting with them.
The Board had a list of items they wanted to discuss with the School Committee:

1) The future of Turkey Hill Elementary School (long term plan) and 10 year projected costs

Mr. Londa reported on the ten-year Capital plan for Turkey Hill Elementary School (THES) that outlines projected costs from FY20 through FY25. Part of the Capital Plan includes ongoing asbestos abatement; removing spray-on asbestos from the ceilings as well as affected floor tiles and the associated glues that hold the tiles.
One other significant item occurs in FY24; requesting $500,000 as a placeholder for 50% of the cost of a potential Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) project to reroof Turkey Hill Elementary. At that time, we will need to decide if we are going to proceed with the project. If we do use the MSBA for the reroofing, we could not return to them to request more funding for THES for ten years. The total cost for the Capital Plan for THES is $955,000, which includes the reroofing amount.
Ms. Luck asked if the MSBA counts individual projects or one project as a whole? Mr. Londa stated we could do projects on other schools. He was planning to do another for a boiler system upgrade through MSBA on the Primary School in FY26.
Mr. McQuaid asked the group if they foresaw starting a conversation about renovation or replacement of THES. Dr. Burnham stated it would be at least a year or two in advance because we would have to express our intent for a project with MSBA.
Discussion about the possibility to add on to THES ensued. Ms. Sroka pointed out the time to think about that would be when the roof needs to be replaced.
Mr. Toale asked what role can the Town or the Board of Selectmen or any other town resource provide help with? He noted MRPC has a lot of data about demographics, housing etc.
Discussion about projecting enrollment ensued.

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2) **Input on the conceptual plan the Selectmen received from the architect hired to provide three different conceptual designs to consolidate town offices currently located in the Town Hall and Ritter Building, School Central Offices (including the ACE program), the Cable Department, and community use spaces such as the gym and kitchen area**

Mr. Toale stated the architect's conceptual design of the TC Passios renovation shows extra space in the rear of the school. Some ideas presented for that space could be for the Lunenburg Boys & Girls Club space, rental property for the town or to simply demolish that part of the building. Ms. Adams asked about mixed use of the space for students and the general public; how does that sharing happen and keep students safe? She had concerns about using the building as a Town Hall and the impact on student safety and traffic flow. She believed congesting that space has a negative impact. Mr. LaVeck stated the Boys and Girls Club representatives should be included in any discussion about the availability of extra space and how they would deal with safety. Discussion about varied access for different needs in the building ensued as well as the traffic flow.

Mr. Toale stated he did not share Ms. Adams' concern and was supportive of CORI checks and security cameras. He noted the center of town is gravitating toward the school campus, with the Senior Center, the Public Library, the Teen Center all being in the general area. Memorial Drive will become a thoroughfare and we'll figure out how to manage the traffic. His concern was if we are going to share space, are there any academic requirements that we aren't aware of.

Dr. Burnham stated we are seeing an increase in new enrollments of younger children. It would be prudent for us to look to use available space for relocating our Pre-K classrooms, currently we have two. We also service children with disabilities that have been identified early. We may have a need for a third classroom in the near future. We have the Early Learning Center and Extended Day Program. We will have to have six first grade classes and anticipate six kindergartens for next year.

Ms. Adams asked if TC Passios would be better utilized as an overflow building for the school department. She wanted to know what the $2 million of immediate repairs cited in the Vertex building study would pay for.

Dr. Burnham did not foresee needing the entire TC Passios building, for even our expanding needs during the school day as an additional school building. But if we are talking about empty classrooms/space, before demolition, please check in with me first.

3) Inclusion of a town representative to participate in union negotiations

Ms. Luck stated when she looked at the last union contract and the effect it would have, she felt the contract did not look at what were the goals of the school system. Could the school system afford this? Adding a million dollars over three years is a lot. She did not think this would benefit the school system. About 70% of the budget goes to the school, so the Town has a huge stake in this. The School Committee would benefit from having someone from the Town; Town Manager, the Finance Director or a Finance Committee member… someone with a more global look at the budget, participate in negotiations.

Mr. Toale asked who currently participates in the negotiations. Ms. Sroka stated the School Superintendent, two members of the School Committee and our Business Manager too, but he was not with us last time we negotiated. Dr. Burnham stated she foresaw working with the Town Manager in this process as well. Both boards agreed that the Town Manager would be involved in the negotiations.

4) School population projections and what that means for future building needs;
It was noted earlier in the meeting that Kindergarten registration would be moved up a month earlier next year to February to see the incoming numbers, but it was hard to project because there are more that come in after that and during the summer break. It was also noted past efforts to predict populations were generally incorrect due to many factors that change the population.

5) **The role of liaisons (i.e. the Selectmen have been discussing the role of their liaisons to various boards/committees)**
Mr. Toale asked what should be the relationship between our two boards and how do we best communicate, advocate etc.? Discussion ensued. Suggestion was made to share the School Superintendent's report and as the Town Manager's report between the two boards. Ms. Lemieux noted her report is done weekly so it might not be on a broader view. It would only capture what happened that week. Each board will decide what type of format to send.

6) Joint planning opportunities such as events, outreach, and communication
Discussion about the Selectmen participating in Homecoming Parade ensued. Ms. Sroka noted she just found out they were not invited but will be in the future. Mr. Toale stated traditionally the Board members have not been invited. Ms. Adams stated she had attended.
It was suggested by Ms. Sroka that the School Committee members attend Annual Town Meeting.
It was suggested to check with other private and non-profit organizations to get dates of their upcoming events so they do not conflict with town events. Another suggestion was to ask The Lunenburg Ledger to print an event calendar.

Follow-up points:

- Ms. Lemieux will provide the conceptual plans of town buildings to the School Committee members for them to review at one of their future meetings and provide input on their needs to the Board of Selectmen.
- Each Board will begin to send their reports in December and check in in March to see how the format is working.
- Town Manager will participate on the school union negotiations.

Ms. Sroka suggested everyone tour Turkey Hill Elementary School after school hours to see what it looks like inside and to where the asbestos removal has occurred. Mr. Toale thanked the School Committee members for discussing the items with them.

Mr. McQuaid motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Luck seconded. Vote: All in Favor

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Peterson

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Executive Assistant to the Town Manager