

TC/BOE STRATEGIC PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2010

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:43 PM in the Barnard School Conference Room (27 Shaker Road) by Greg Stokes.

Members Present: Board of Education Members: Greg Stokes, Chairman; Chuck Johnson; Judy Apruzzese-Desroches; Joyce Hall. Town Council Members; Scott Kaupin, Mayor; Bill Lee; Cindy Mangini; Patrick Crowley.

Also at the Table: Matt Coppler, Town Manager; Paul Russell, IT Director; John Gallacher, Superintendent of Schools.

Other Officials in Attendance: Donna Szewczak, Board Member; Tony Torre, Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. Stokes announced that Mr. Lee was replacing Councilman Ken Nelson on the committee.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the April 8, 2010 meeting were approved as submitted.

Discussion: Mr. Russell was asked to update the committee on the status of the new transportation software from U.S. Computing. Basic demographic information (i.e. address, grade in school) on students is available from the E-school data base. State of CT will provide GIS capability to upgrade the Town map. The representative from U.S. Computing will be here the week of April 26 and by the end of that week we should be able to manipulate school boundaries but not the bus stops. Next phase is to manually insert the bus stops.

The Committee then addressed agenda item #2 "Discussion of School Configuration." Mayor Kaupin asked the School Superintendent to share his preference. Dr. Gallacher favored two alternatives: the first configuration would be K-2; 3-5; 6-8; 9-12 grades. As an example of this scenario he said a student may attend Barnard School for grades K-2 and then attend Crandall School for grades 3-5. He stated the greater number of sections in each school would help to better balance class sizes. Regarding class sizes, he favored class sizes of 18-21 students in grades K-2 and 23-25 students in grades 3-5. Under this scenario one building would house all 6-8 graders and one high school would house all 9-12 graders. However, in his option, to facilitate the number of students in the 6-8 building and the 9-12 building major building renovation/additions would be required.

In his second configuration a single building would house all PK-K students. This is possible with half day classes, but full day would require more space. The other elementary buildings would be designated as 1-2 and 3-5 grades. The single school 6-8 and the single senior high 9-12 would complete this configuration. He noted that this concept would also require construction/remodeling in the single PK-K building (i.e. student sized toilets and coat racks) as well as the needed work in the two secondary buildings to accommodate the number of students. Transportation costs would also need to be examined under either scenario since we are increasing beyond the current three levels (k-6; 7-8; 9-12).

Dr. Gallacher also pointed out that the committee needs to consider moving costs, time for moving (especially if summer school is operating) and creating a welcoming

atmosphere for students and parents to explore their new school prior to opening day. The importance of establishing a positive school culture was mentioned.

The committee then recessed to eat supper at the table. During this time, a number of handouts requested at last week's meeting were distributed.

Discussion followed on various other configurations such as a 9th grade academy, a 7-9 junior high and 10-12 senior high, housing full day kindergartens, and the possible affect of a CREC magnet school for grades 6-14 if located in Enfield.

The committee felt that the Board of Education should approach Dr. Peter Prowda about running updated demographic enrollment projections. The Board members on the committee agreed to ask the full Board if they would approve this idea.

A recommended configuration from a parent was discussed. It was PK-2 in 3 schools; 3-4 grade in 3 schools; a district wide 5-6 grade building; a district wide junior high for grades 7-9; and one senior high housing 10-12 grades.

The committee asked Dr. Gallacher is he could report back on this model and his two proposed configurations. A request was made to run the scenarios with both half day K and full day K. A request to run a scenario with Enfield Street School as "an annex" to the high school was made. Dr. Gallacher agreed to run these and will try for the April 29th meeting as a presentation date. He explained most of the administrators are gone for spring vacation.

Next Meeting(s): The April 22nd meeting agenda was discussed. It was decided to meet and Mr. Coppler has building data (i.e. # of lockers, parking spaces) and operational costs to share.

The committee will explore moving the April 29th meeting to the Enfield Room.

The committee thanked Cindy Mangini for providing the meal.

Adjournment: At 8:33 PM, Mr. Lee moved, and Mrs. Mangini seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

John Gallacher, Recorder