

TC/BOE STRATEGIC PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2010

Call to Order: Mayor Kaupin called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM in the Multi-Purpose Room at Barnard School, 27 Shaker Road.

Members Present: BOE Members: Greg Stokes, Chairman; Chuck Johnson; Judy Apruzzese-Desroches, and Joyce Hall.

TC Members: Scott Kaupin, Mayor; Bill Lee, and Cindy Mangini.

Also at the Table: John Gallacher, Superintendent of Schools.

Officials in the Audience: BOE Members – Peter Jonaitis, Vin Grady, Donna Szewczak, and Stacy Thurston.

Approval of Minutes:

Mrs. Hall moved and Mrs. Mangini seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2010 meeting. Motion passed unanimously by a show-of-hands.

Mr. Kaupin asked if there was any additional information from the administration. Dr. Gallacher distributed a sheet showing the estimated bussing costs for Alcorn School (\$185,842.00) and Stowe School (\$88,373.00).

Matt Coppler, Town Manager, entered the meeting at 6:35 PM.

Pat Crowley, Town Council Member, entered the meeting at 6:40 PM.

The members then discussed the nature of the recommendation they were going to make. It was agreed that the recommendation would be a recommended configuration for grades PK-12 that would be presented as a concept. They did not plan to necessarily name specific schools for reutilization. They also agreed that the recommended configuration should not be based on budget.

Discussion resulted in the following configurations:

- a. A one building senior high school housing grades 9-12. Location of the building to be determined. Future study on this concept should continue with a final decision coming in October 2010. In the interim, hiring an architect should be explored; a timeline for school construction under the ED049 process should be obtained and distributed; architect should study all possible locations, including using Enfield Street School as part of the senior high; STEM requirements and upcoming State requirements for high school graduation should be considered.
- b. A one building middle school housing grades 6-8. Location should be at either the current middle school or at the open high school building.

Considerable discussion took place on the issue of how should the 6th graders transfer into a 6-8 middle school and should the Board decide to move any students for September 2010. The school administrators recommended moving 200-250 students. Mr. Neville addressed the

committee on the reasoning behind that recommendation. Some committee members felt the entire 6th grade should transfer to JFK for September 2010. It was finally decided to leave that decision for the Board of Education.

Mr. Lee excused himself from the meeting at 7:32 PM.

- c. At the elementary level, a PK-2 and 3-5 grades organization was recommended. This is based on half-day kindergarten classes with the possible exception of one full-day class at Barnard School through Project Choice funding. The committee favored a "sister schools" concept and agreed that this could work with either an even or odd number of buildings. The committee felt that one of the current grade schools could be reutilized for September 2010 but did not name a school.

However the committee members present did conduct a poll as to their top three schools considered for reutilization. All seven members had Stowe School as their first choice for closure/reutilization. Hale School followed in second place with a unanimous choice. Third place found Alcorn School with 3 votes and Enfield Street School with 4 votes.

The committee also felt that all students return to their home school "for starters" when the administration sets building assignments. The opportunity to attend another school other than the child's home school may occur but could not be promised at this time.

The committee requested an updated K-6 student count including Kindergarten registrations to date.

The May 20 Community Conversation format was then discussed. The meeting is at the Kennedy Middle School Cafeteria starting at 7:00 PM. It will be a large group setting rather than break out groups. The committee hopes to hear how the community feels about the organizational structure as a concept rather than people speaking to "don't close my school".

Mr. Kaupin said that he will coordinate a presentation, possibly Power Point, and requested input from the members. Mr. Stokes will deliver the presentation. The audience will then have the opportunity to address all present. Agreed that audience comments should be limited to three minutes for round one speakers. Audience sign-up will be required. E-TV plans to tape the meeting for showing on TV.

Following the Community Conversation, the TC/BOE Strategic Planning Committee will hold a meeting to discuss input received at the conversation meeting. Mr. Coppler will prepare an agenda for that meeting.

Mr. Johnson moved and Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously by a show-of-hands. Meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Gallacher, Recorder