

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOE FACILITIES COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2015**

ATTENDANCE: Jack Chiaramonte, Chair; Artie Kassimis, Mike Barbis (10:12 a.m.)

STAFF: Richard Rudl, BOE Financial Officer; Karen Bartron, Purchasing Agent; Brenda Williams

OTHERS: Michael Zuba, Milone & MacBroom; William Silver, President, Silver Petrucelli

CALL TO ORDER.

Mr. Chiaramonte called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. A quorum was present.

FACILITY UTILIZATION STUDY.

Mr. Rudl explained that back in October an RFP had been issued and Malone and MacBroom and Silver Petrucelli. had been chosen.

Mr. Silver stated that Silver Petrucelli had been working in Norwalk for a number of years and had worked on several schools. He then narrated a brief PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Zuba said that his firm had worked with Silver Petrucelli on a number of projects. His company works on planning while Silver Petrucelli handle architecture. He then distributed copies of a project planning timeline. He said that a draft review would be ready by July. This is a one sided schedule and there was no input from the educators. He explained that since the high schools had been recently renovated, they were not considered as heavily as the other schools.

Mr. Barbis joined the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Mr. Silver pointed out that the projects were done in a modular form, and if the BOE wanted to remove the high schools from the project list, it would reduce the cost. Since they both had been renovated in the recent past, he focused more on the other school facilities.

Mr. Zuba explained that Stamford had built 100 new units of housing and these units would be adding students to the school system. He gave a brief overview of how this was factored in.

Mr. Kassimis asked if the data from the other cities would be available to the Board. Mr. Zuba said that the data would be available. The discussion then moved to incoming ELO students. Mr. Zuba said that Milone & MacBroom had dealt with this in Stamford and had contacted various churches and other organizations to track those figures.

Mr. Barbis commented that Norwalk had been forced by a consent decree to close an "inner city" school and bus those students to different schools. He asked how this would be factored in. Mr. Zuba said that Milone & MacBroom said that Stamford had also had this issue and the company was familiar with redistricting for racial balance. He then gave the details of how this was handled. He added that when Avalon had been built in Trumbull, it resulted in severe overcrowding for one particular school. Mr. Zuba explained how they kept blocks of students together as they assigned the students to various schools. Discussion followed about the various schools in neighboring towns in terms of immigration, families moving in, and the real estate market trends.

The discussion then moved to school choice. Mr. Zuba replied that there had been meeting with the various building administration to clarify the assets that each school has and what works best for any individual school. He said that Malone & MacBroom often will create a PowerPoint presentation that is uploaded to the BOE website so that everyone has the opportunity to review it and ask questions. Malone & MacBroom also did a web based survey and received a very high participation rate in one community.

There is a movement to return to the K-8 model, but Mr. Zuba said that the current buildings are not set up for this type of model any longer. He pointed out that the classes are not of a uniform size, so the schools are limited with the number of sections by the rooms available.

Mr. Barbis said that Norwalk has to increase their efficiency. He mentioned middle school choice. Mr. Zuba said that while the planners provide the methods but each individual town must decide what direction they want to move in. Part of the component is to educate the public on the various choices.

Mr. Rudl said that it was hoped that they could bring this to the full Board for approval.

ADJOURNMENT.

**** MR. KASSIMIS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MR. BARBIS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services