

**NORWALK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FACILITIES COMMITTEE  
OCTOBER 18, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Mike Barbis, Chair; Dr. Yvel Crevecoeur, Art Kassimis,  
Bryan Meek (5:43 pm)  
STAFF: Thomas Hamilton, Chief Financial Officer;  
Dr. Steven Adamowski, Superintendent  
OTHER: Common Council Members: Bruce Kimmel, Tom Livingston;  
John Ireland, Silver Petrucelli Associates

Call to Order

Mr. Barbis called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and stated that members in attendance were as listed above, and there was a quorum present.

Mr. Barbis introduced members of the Committee and members of the Common Council in attendance and noted that Mr. Hamilton was the staff administrator to steer the Committee.

Mr. Hamilton introduced John Ireland of Silver Petrucelli who provided an overview of the power-point presentation of the Facilities Utilization Study outcomes and recommendations.

Mr. Ireland highlighted the enrollment projections, demographic analysis, and the key action point for the need to add 900 seats and recommendations for building renovations or addition of a new school. He reviewed the chart of capital needs by school site with projected financial investment by location.

There was discussion on the portable classrooms currently utilized and 12 at Jefferson Elementary School that are nearing the end of their useful life.

Dr. Adamowski discussed the ‘unassigned’ students and clarified how this has been a historical practice for district balancing of enrollment and the resulting transportation costs and absence of a neighborhood school in many parts of the city of Norwalk.

There was discussion of the Pre K-8 program model and Mr. Ireland referred to the chart of a building layout with room requirements.

There was discussion of the typography of Ben Franklin and the adjoining Flax Hill park area and Nathaniel Ely School.

Mr. Barbis noted that the key objective of this meeting was to review the next steps required for the Ponus Ridge campus expansion:

Next steps required for the Ponus Ridge campus expansion:

- Creation of swing space for renovation projects
- Potential addition of K-5 space to accommodate the downsizing of Jefferson School.
  - Development of a new STEM or STEAM magnet program at Ponus Ridge
  - Appointment of Educational Specifications Committee

There was discussion on the above steps and questions and comments were fielded.

**\*\* MR. MEEK MOVED TO APPROVE AND FORWARD ON TO THE FULL BOARD FOR APPROVAL ACTION OF THE FOLLOWING NEXT STEPS FOR THE PONUS RIDGE CAMPUS EXPANSION FOR THE ED 049 EDUCATION SPECIFICATIONS TO BE IN PLACE BY JUNE 2017:**

**CREATION OF SWING SPACE FOR RENOVATION PROJECTS  
POTENTIAL ADDITION OF K-5 SPACE TO ACCOMMODATE THE  
DOWNSIZING OF JEFFERSON SCHOOL.  
DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW STEM OR STEAM MAGNET PROGRAM AT  
PONUS RIDGE  
APPOINTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**\*\* DR. CREVECEOUR SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Dr. Adamowski presented the following recommended outline for the Columbus/Nathaniel Ely School Building Site:

Assumptions:

- 1. There are two feasible building sites in South Norwalk.**
- 2. As suggested by The Facilities Utilization and Enrollment Projection Study, enrollment growth is centered in South Norwalk.**
- 3. From an equity perspective, there should be a neighborhood school in south Norwalk. All families should have the choice of a neighborhood school.**

Continued next page

**4. Phase I of the building plan must add approximately 900 seats to prevent over-enrollment during the next five years; at least half of these should be in South Norwalk.**

*5. In addition to overcrowding, any plan should address multiple education objectives in the Strategic Operating Plan (SOP) i.e., school/program quality and effectiveness, enhancement of parental choice, reduction of bussing, addition instructional time and summer learning, school based preschool a full continuum of services for special needs students and economic/racial balance.*

### **Option A**

**Build K-8 Columbus School on Ely site (2sections per grade/450 students) 2020-2021 SY**

**Renovate as new, current Columbus School as a PreK-5 neighborhood school (3 sections/grade – 450 students)**

#### **Advantages**

1. Adds 450 K-5 seats; reduces enrollment pressure on other Norwalk elementary schools
2. Relieves overcrowding at Jefferson School
3. Reduces enrollment pressures at middle school level
4. Reduces bussing at elementary level
- Can be accomplished within racial/economic balance guidelines

#### **Topics for Community Forum on October 26, 2016**

It was noted that all of the above items would be included on the agenda for the forum.

It was further noted that this committee would have regular monthly meetings on the first Thursday of the month commencing in November.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Knox,  
Telesco Secretarial Services