



**TOWN OF ROCKY HILL
FACILITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES/MOTIONS**

In order to comply with Connecticut General Statutes regarding minutes of meetings, the following will be used to record information during all public meetings that take place. An original must be submitted to the Town Clerk of Rocky Hill within 48 hours of the meeting being adjourned. Motions should be complete, showing the maker and second of the motion as well as how each member voted. Unanimous votes may be listed as unanimous.

NAME OF PUBLIC BOARD OR COMMISSION	Board of Education Facilities Committee
DATE MEETING AGENDA POSTED	February 25, 2010
LOCATION	Training/Conference Room
DATE OF MEETING	March 9, 2010
TIME MEETING STARTED	6:05 p.m.
PERSON PREPARING MEETING MINUTES	Jo-Anne Booth, Recording Secretary
VERBATIM NOTES TAKEN	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
AUDIO, VIDEO OR LIVE TRANSMISSION OF MEETING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

MEMBERS PRESENT AT MEETING

1. Rene (Skip) Rivard, Chairman	2. Brian Dillon (Entered at 6:09 p.m.)
3. Maria Mennella	4. Frank Morse (Entered at 6:07 p.m.)
5. Also present: Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Villar	6. Edward (Alex) Silva (Bd. of Ed.)
7. Mike Sorano (Friar Associates)	8. Ken Biega (O & G Industries, Inc.)

NUMBER REQUIRED FOR QUORUM 3 QUORUM PRESENT Yes No

TEXT MOTIONS AND RESULTS VOTES

1st MOTION Passed Failed Tabled

Moved by Frank Morse, seconded by Maria Mennella, to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m. FAVOR: ALL MOTION CARRIED
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LINK TO WORKING NOTES (will be attached if available)
CORRECTION(S) (will be attached if available)
TIME MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:51 p.m. .
TIME DELIVERED TO TOWN CLERK: .

ACTION

Town of Rocky Hill
Board of Education
Facilities Committee Meeting Working Notes
March 9, 2010

A Facilities Committee meeting of the Rocky Hill Board of Education was held on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 in the training /conference room. Chairman Rene (Skip) Rivard called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Present were: Brian Dillon (Entered at 6:09 p.m.), Maria Mennella and Frank Morse (Entered at 6:07 p.m.). Also present were: Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Villar, Edward (Alex) Silva (Bd. of Ed.), Ken Biega (O & G Industries, Inc.) and Mike Sorano (Friar Associates).

I. Discussion of School Facilities Plan

Mr. Sorano said this was a lot less of a construction presentation for Rocky Hill High School than it was a programming one. A copy of this PowerPoint presentation was passed out to everyone.

Mr. Sorano showed a slide of what the existing program of the building is and he showed the next slide which was what the new program of the building would be. He told everyone he will work with Mr. Biega to make the adjustments on the cost estimate if the program looks good and if it looks like it is going to match up with what their intentions are. The lowest level of this building originally was all slated for major renovation. Mr. Sorano explained what classes will be on the lower level.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said he had met with Assistant Superintendent Hourigan, Principal Almeida and Mr. Sorano at the high school shortly after the last Facilities Committee meeting. Their focus was to review the plan and see if it aligned with the directions they are headed in programmatically. Superintendent Dr. Villar said he is well aware of the criticism about the extra space that exists on the first floor. There are programs (i.e. metal shop) there are not being used and this space is not well used space. There were a series of adaptations made by the staff to this space to make this work as best as possible. During their session at the high school, they proposed to move the Family Consumer Science courses, the business courses and the technology courses all onto the first floor. Their thought is that they will be able to capitalize on the space on that floor and redesign it so it fits the needs of each of those three programs. This will also create a lot of space on the second and third floors which will facilitate program needs and renovation on those levels.

Chairman Rivard referred to Graphic Arts and he asked if this is the print shop. Superintendent Dr. Villar said yes. He is proposing to eliminate graphics. This had been discussed at the last Curriculum Committee meeting. Graphic Arts is run with less than twenty students for one period a day. This huge space can be transformed into three business classrooms so that they are recapturing the space on the first floor in a very efficient manner. Some changes will be made to Power Tech because he thinks that program needs to be realigned with state standards and this had also been talked about at

the Curriculum Committee meeting. They are looking to bring the wood shop area to modern standards and they are looking to refocus this.

Chairman Rivard asked Mr. Silva if he has been to the wood shop recently. Mr. Silva said he was there for the walkthrough. Chairman Rivard asked him if saw the storage there and Mr. Silva said he did.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said all of the facilities need to be brought up to modern specifications and codes so this might limit some of the programs they can offer anyway. Some space will be lost in those areas. Wood shop will be brought up-to-speed. They are proposing the development of a video editing course through the Curriculum Committee and through the design of the ed spec of the building. He thinks this will be a homerun for Rocky Hill because Channel 3 is here. This program is at the middle school now. He is proposing for the video editing course to replace the graphics program. He referred to the pre-engineering class. The fate has not been determined for Project Lead the Way which is a pre-engineering type of course. He thinks there will be some type of engineering course that will move forward. There also will be wood storage and book storage on the first level. He thinks this is important because storage is an issue.

Chairman Rivard asked what "FCS" stands for and Superintendent Dr. Villar said this stands for Family Consumer Science. Mr. Morse asked what Family Consumer Science is now. Superintendent Dr. Villar said there are child development components as well as a nutrition and cooking component. There is also sewing, etc. Mr. Morse said this area is for CPU graphics, etc. He referred to the ventilation required for cooking. Mr. Sorano said this was formerly a metal shop so they have the chase space to deal with in there. He explained more. Superintendent Dr. Villar said there is ventilation there now for the wood shop. Mr. Sorano said they have the fire ratings in there which is important. There will be mostly residential appliances so they don't have to deal with the big exhausts that they have to deal with in commercial kitchens.

Chairman Rivard asked if the elevator will be a new one. Mr. Sorano said yes. They will have to replace the elevator.

Mr. Dillon asked Superintendent Dr. Villar what they are looking at for pre-engineering. Mr. Dillon referred to CAD and he said GIS is becoming a more powerful tool. Superintendent Dr. Villar said the concept behind the wood shop is lower end CAD programs so that students can be started on this. The pre-engineering courses have just begun to be talked about. This is one of the stem standards that the state and the feds are pushing. Project Lead the Way is a very good program but they only have three technology teachers and only one of them is certified to teach the program. Only so many sections can be offered in a given year. It is hard to attract children to this and it has conflicts to it. His and Assistant Superintendent Hourigan's thought was to move beyond this and look at a quality engineering program. Mr. Dillon said he is working with UCONN right now and it is amazing what the students can do with GIS, etc. The tools are powerful now.

Mr. Sorano referred to the new elevator and he said the stairs will be replaced. Mr. Silva asked if they are going to keep the old elevator. Mr. Sorano said it will probably have to be updated because they have to make it conform to code.

Mr. Sorano showed a slide of the existing program of the second story which is the main story of the high school. They broke down the number of rooms programmatically that there are. He showed a slide of the new program of the second story. Chairman Rivard said FCS is going from three classrooms to two and he asked how the square footage is. Superintendent Dr. Villar said this is like a CLAB setup and instead of there being three rooms for two teachers that they currently have, there will be two rooms for two teachers that are bigger with multiple uses. Mr. Sorano said they are going with the CLAB setup which is half classroom and half lab.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said they are reorganizing a great deal of the instructional space around the school. He showed the guidance suite which will replace the guidance suite which is inferior on the third level floor. Their plan is to expand guidance. They are working with a former State Department of Education employee to review guidance. Superintendent Dr. Villar is anticipating NEASC saying something about the current guidance suite. They are trying to increase the amount of conference rooms that are available in the school. He referred to the social studies area and one of the concepts is to keep academic subjects as close together as possible. The Special Education rooms are being clustered on the second floor. Art rooms and storage will be on this floor also. The kitchen and cafeteria will stay the same.

Superintendent Dr. Villar showed everyone where they had a wing in the initial drawings as late as last week. He suggested to Mr. Sorano in his conversations with him at the high school last week when they were talking about locker rooms and access to them, etc. that maybe this area could be put along the back wall in the indented area. The concept for this is there will be access into the gymnasium straight from this and there will be the wellness center as well as the locker rooms. He went over what the initial design would have been. Principal Almeida is happy with what is going to be done now. Mr. Morse said there is a little bit of a grade issue there and he asked if this is why the location where the tennis court is was originally looked at. Mr. Sorano said he had wanted to minimize the amount of firewalls that he was putting in because they are really expensive so that is why it originally was like it was. Sprinklers were not being added to the building in the additions/alterations project. The issue of firewalls goes away because sprinklers are going to be added to this building. Superintendent Dr. Villar said they also won't lose quite as much square footage with hallways and the square footage will be used for rooms. Storage space is being regained where the current football locker room is.

Mr. Sorano explained how the art room is going to be moving in where Family Consumer Science is. This works nicely and he explained why. Chairman Rivard asked if the art room space is being increased and Mr. Sorano said yes. Mr. Sorano said the teachers' lounge will be adjacent directly to the cafeteria. For security reasons, he tried to put the faculty offices at the ends of long corridors. Superintendent Dr. Villar said they have to

have a workroom and a lounge per their agreement with the Rocky Hill Teachers Association.

Mr. Silva asked if any deficiencies were seen in the kitchen and he asked if there is anything the kitchen might need. Mr. Sorano said there are a couple of code violations in there. Superintendent Dr. Villar said what is nice with their current agreement with SODEXO is that a lot of the equipment is being brought in through them. Mr. Silva asked if the equipment is in good shape and he was told it is. Mr. Sorano said the kitchen hood needs to be replaced and he thinks at this point that they can get rid of the fryolators.

Superintendent Dr. Villar referred to social studies and he said the class count includes what used to be the portable. Mr. Dillon asked Superintendent Dr. Villar if they are doing away with sewing. Superintendent Dr. Villar said that is being continued and he showed everyone which classroom spaces this will become a part of. Human development courses will be held in that same room. Mr. Dillon asked if this is a well attended class and Superintendent Dr. Villar said it is maximally enrolled.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said what is needed to configure social studies rooms would not be dramatically different from what would need to be configured for English rooms, etc. A lot of program flexibility is gained at the end of the day.

Mr. Sorano showed everyone what the existing situation is on the third floor. The biggest critique of this space was that things got muddled over the time of the development of this space. They tried to clean this up and bring the counts of the classrooms to make them correct. There were shortages of certain programs. Superintendent Dr. Villar referred to the science rooms. There will be seven spaces for CLABs which means that there will be lab materials and classroom materials in these. There will also be two additional classroom spaces. There will be more lab space than they had before and this will be state-of-the-art. This will be incredibly awesome from a curriculum standpoint. Chemical storage that is required will be built into these classrooms and volumes of these things will be reduced. He showed where a workroom will be. There will be networking of printers to copiers in the workrooms and this is going to be done as a district. This will save them money.

Mr. Dillon asked if it was known as to where Rocky Hill is in terms of technologies and science relative to neighboring communities that are of similar size (i.e. Berlin and Cromwell, etc.). Superintendent Dr. Villar said this is a moving target. Rocky Hill was very behind in technology a couple of years ago but they have made some vigorous strides. Chairman Rivard asked if this wasn't part of their survey last year or the year before. Superintendent Dr. Villar said it was a part of it a couple of years ago. He referred to the graduation requirements. Three years of science are not required but there are a large number of students who take three years of it which is great. Mr. Dillon asked Mr. Sorano where this puts Rocky Hill with the schools he has done recently and if it puts Rocky Hill to being equal, outpacing, or in line with what other similar communities are doing. Mr. Sorano said aside from the guidance area that there are shortages currently in

the science department. He just finished a high school where the main push of that project had been to add science rooms. Superintendent Dr. Villar said they have eight periods per day. There are teachers who teach five periods per day per contract and if they have nine teachers then this will be forty-five periods of teaching. They have nine spaces. This means they could expand the science program further and bring on more staff if they wanted to in order to go to four science credits but they aren't going to do this. The point he was making is they have a lot of capacity. They could have dedicated quality labs.

Chairman Rivard asked if the computer lab is for student use or if it is used for teaching computer skills. Superintendent Dr. Villar showed where the existing computer lab is now and he said teachers do use it with students for classes. He believes for the future that there will be wireless devices and laptop carts. Chairman Rivard asked if most of the students do their research at home or if they use onsite computers. Superintendent Dr. Villar said they use both. He mentioned that the media center needs a lot more computers in it. He told Mr. Sorano as this is being designed that they need to maximize the number of computers that are available within the media center. Part of the ed spec will be to move to an online card catalogue. Mr. Silva asked if this lab is used for the Virtual High School. Superintendent Dr. Villar showed where the computers are that are identified for that. He is trying to get people to move beyond thinking of this as a location. Students could be working on this in any classroom that has computers because it is virtual.

Superintendent Dr. Villar showed where the math classrooms will be as well as where the media center and world language classrooms will be. There will be a badly needed book storage area and a conference room. He showed where the English wing will be and the area where guidance used to be. He said this is a good looking layout. Mr. Sorano said this will work well for construction sequencing. Superintendent Dr. Villar said with the configuration of the rooms that English could easily be shifted into math and vice versa. The ed spec will call for mostly the same technology package in all of the rooms.

Chairman Rivard asked if all of the classrooms are going to be wired for computers. Superintendent Dr. Villar said they are already wired. He thinks they would be silly if they didn't put wire in when they are building a building because there are things that can always be done with hardwired things. Mr. Sorano said they will probably pull copper and 6e into every room and run it to a projector, etc.

Mr. Silva referred to the science rooms that will be over the pool and how there presently is a windowless wall there because of the way the locker rooms are set up. He asked if the walls are going to be blown out and if windows are going to be put in or he asked if this is going to be maintained as an enclosed space. He would definitely have a problem with keeping that amount of chemicals and gas, etc. in an enclosed space. Mr. Sorano said he would have to explore this because he hadn't thought about putting windows there. He explained that all of the science labs will have fume hoods integral to the entire HVAC. This will be a separate ventilation system from the rest of the school. Twenty-four hour venting will be required here. This will always be on interconnected with the

fume hoods as well as the chemical storage areas, etc. and it will always be venting. This will all be alarmed and it will have battery backup. Everything will be handled mechanically. The only thing that is missing is natural light. Mr. Biega said they are going to need natural light. Mr. Sorano showed the only place that windows possibly could go and he said he will see if he can get high windows onto that wall.

Mr. Morse asked what “CR” stands for after “Science”. He was told that this stands for classroom. Mr. Sorano said there will be seven CLABs and two regular classrooms which will be used for straight lecture. This will be the best way to deliver science because this is the way the NSTA and the high school wants to go.

Mr. Dillon asked if physics, biology and chemistry are the three science classes. Superintendent Dr. Villar said those are the top ones that drive lab space. Mr. Morse thinks that most children take Earth Science in their freshmen year.

Mr. Sorano showed everyone where the mezzanine is. This currently houses the school newspaper, etc. Mr. Silva said there is a dumbwaiter shaft there. Mr. Sorano showed where an elevator will be put. Mr. Morse said people have to be able to get up there if they are going to be fully ADA compliant. Mr. Sorano said IT offices will be there along with the school newspaper, etc. unless they find a better spot for the school newspaper. Mr. Dillon asked what the cost will be to put an elevator there for that small space. He was told it would cost \$25,000. Mr. Silva asked if the existing shaft could be used structurally or if this would have to be redesigned. Mr. Sorano showed the side where he will probably have to take the stairwell out. Mr. Dillon said this is not a good project component in terms of cost benefit. Mr. Biega referred to the stairwell being taken out and he asked if people are going to want two means of egress to get out of there. Mr. Sorano said this is an expensive space because they have to give an access to it. Mr. Silva said this would have to be done if this is used for educational purposes. Mr. Sorano said the only way they wouldn't have to provide access to this would be if it is used as mechanical space. Mr. Dillon said the addition could be expanded for potentially the same cost to have this little component done and they could get brand new space which would be in a more accessible area. Superintendent Dr. Villar asked Mr. Sorano if he could do nothing to that area and leave it as it is. Mr. Sorano said yes. Mr. Biega questioned if they would be forced to do something there if they are going for renovate as new. A discussion took place about this. Mr. Morse asked if the square footage for this area is calculated in as part of the square footage for the school and Mr. Sorano said it is. Mr. Morse said it wouldn't be if this was turned into mechanical space and this would make their reimbursement a little better because they are over their square footage at the high school now. Mr. Sorano said mechanical space is considered part of the square footage. He believes they would be given an additional 5% if they would be using this space for any kind of energy conservation mechanical space. Mr. Biega didn't know what the percentage is. Mr. Dillon suggested that they might want to “kick” around with Superintendent Dr. Villar what the “best bang for the buck” would be. They can at least look at other possibilities.

Mr. Silva asked if the sprinkler room will stay right where it is now. He said the standpipe hooks up at the mechanic's garage at the far right side of the building on the first floor. Mr. Sorano explained that they will have to bring another water line into the building for the sprinkler system and this can be brought in anywhere. Mr. Silva said he doesn't like where it is now and he explained why. Mr. Sorano showed where they could come in with a water line.

Chairman Rivard asked where they go from here. Mr. Silva asked them if they are aware of the bill that is being proposed right now at the legislature with regards to requiring a life cycle analysis. Mr. Sorano said he is aware of this.

Chairman Rivard asked again about what their next step will be. Superintendent Dr. Villar said they have lots of steps. Chairman Rivard said he was asked by the Joint Facilities Committee to share something. He said that Committee is going to bypass all Subcommittees and present the plan with regards to the referendum on Monday night at the Town Council meeting. A discussion took place about this.

Moved by Frank Morse, seconded by Maria Mennella, to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m.

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Anne Booth

Accepted by: _____ Date: _____