

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
FUTURE USE OF FERMI ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MARCH 18, 2014 MINUTES**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Sirard.
2. **INTRODUCTIONS – ROLL CALL:** Ashley, Hurley, Michael Pescitelli, Marie Pyznar, Keith Winans, Chris Drezek, Jeff Schumann, Ray Peabody, Stacy Thurston and Tom Sirard
3. **NEW BUSINESS:**

a. Review Charge of the Committee

Chairman Sirard distributed the charge of the Future Use of Fermi Advisory Committee to committee members. The charge of the committee is to gather information regarding the potential use(s) of the Enrico Fermi building as an educational facility: (1) Determine if there is an educational need; and (2) Present recommendations to the Board of Education in a timely fashion at a public meeting(s).

Mr. Peabody would like the committee to present options for educational use.

Chairman Sirard reminded committee members that the Board of Education will make the final decision. This will be an open process for discussions. The previous Board determined to return the building back to the Town if we do not have an educational need for it.

Chairman Sirard reminded committee members to limit e-mailing to the entire group. Any e-mails are subjected to FOI rules and if committee members respond back and forth, this could be construed as an illegal meeting. You do not want to have a quorum of the committee participating by e-mails. He urged committee members to forward all requests received to him. He will forward the requests to all committee members.

Mr. Winans is looking for the scope of information they will need to acquire.

Chairman Sirard stated we have two Fermi teachers and two Enfield citizens to help with the research. He will get the get the costs associated with zoning.

Mr. Peabody stated that costs for building usage, repairs and ADA compliance concerns will be needed.

Chairman Sirard stated we have posted information on the Board's website under Future Use of Fermi. You can find many documents related to the FHS OCR compliance issue there. All agendas and minutes will also be posted here.

Committee members would like to tour both John F. Kennedy and Enrico Fermi.

Mr. Winans was asking what direction they should go in.

Mrs. Pyznar felt each committee member should research an item. She would like information regarding student population at the middle school and projected enrollment numbers.

Committee members agreed to meet at Enrico Fermi High School to tour the building on Thursday, March 27th at 7:00 PM. They can meet in the 3rd Floor Conference Room.

Committee members wanted to know if they could make suggestions for possible uses for the empty building. Chairman Sirard stated that is not the charge of the committee. If the Board does not have an educational need for the building it will be turned over to the town. The town will decide what will be in the building, not us.

Mr. Peabody would like to schedule an open forum. How will we communicate with the public? Status reports are needed.

Mr. Pescitelli and Mrs. Hurley agreed that transparency and open communications are needed.

Mr. Pescitelli added there may be many different options for building use at Fermi. He would like to survey the staff.

Chairman Sirard stated if this is something the committee would like to do, we can place surveys on our Future Use of Fermi website.

Chairman Sirard stated both schools work as teams. Team teaching goes on in all of our schools.

Mrs. Pyznar stated either building could easily be used as a recreation center.

Chairman Sirard urged committee members to put all of their options on the table regarding the use of Fermi. The Board will make an unbiased decision regarding this. If this decision is going to cost us money, he would like the money to be well spent.

Mrs. Pyznar stated JFK has a bad reputation with parents. She was concerned with placing grade six students there, but it seems to be working.

Mrs. Pyznar asked about the clock for ADA repairs at Fermi. Dr. Schumann explained to the committee the clock will start up again once we decide we are going to use the Enrico Fermi building as an educational setting.

Chairman Sirard explained to the committee about the soil contamination at Fermi and the soil capping not being broken. Both high school buildings need work but the Fermi building would have required more than Enfield High. We believe that JFK does not have any soil concerns. Fire codes will also need to be considered.

Mr. Winans stated if Fermi needs any alteration, they would need to be done within the existing building footings.

Mrs. Pyznar would like to look at the class room numbers at both schools.

Mrs. Thurston would like the committee to talk with Mrs. Collins about JFK. She recently toured the school and Mrs. Collins has some suggestions for the building. The overall attitude at JFK is very positive. They are making the overcrowding situation work.

Mr. Winans asked if the Town has plans for what they would like to place in the empty building.

Mr. Peabody stated they would like to place, EMS, Library, Community Center and other departments at the empty building.

Mr. Peabody would like us to look at the school function.

Chairman Sirard explained the differences about renovating to new and additions to the committee. We might be eligible for financing from the State if we renovate to new. Fermi was built as an institution setting. JFK was built as a middle school designed for team teaching.

Recommended items needed:

- Floor plans for John F. Kennedy and Enrico Fermi;
- Financial costs for both buildings including trailer costs at JFK;
- Cost per square foot for any additions;
- Research options to keep the middle school at JFK with either an addition or replacement trailers;
- Costs for ADA compliance issues for both FHS and JFK will be needed;
- Hardening and security concerns are ongoing;
- What kinds of renovations would be needed to convert FHS into a middle school;
- Fields at FHS are completed. The fields at JFK are not current;
- Renovation data needed for JFK;
- Value of using either JFK or FHS;
- Clock starting up again regarding the FHS compliance issue;
- Information for submitting a referendum;
- Discuss team teaching with JFK staff;
- Enrollment numbers, current and projected.

b. Establish a Time Line

Mr. Pescitelli would like to know if a drop dead date is needed.

Chairman Sirard would like the committee to make a decision before the end of school. The committee will use July 1, 2014 for a deadline.

Mr. Peabody would like the committee to set milestones. We may need to go beyond this year. He would like to produce something for the Board to look at in May 2014.

c. Set Future Meeting Dates

The committee will meet the first and third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Board Conference Room unless otherwise indicated. T

d. Items from the Table - None

4. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Peabody moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the March 18, 2014 Future Use of Fermi Advisory Committee adjourn.

A vote by voice 3-0-0 passed unanimously.

The meeting stood adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary