

**TC/BOE STRATEGIC PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 4, 2010**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The TC/BOE Strategic Plan Subcommittee meeting of November 4, 2010 was called to order by Greg Stokes at 7:00 PM in the Enfield Room at Town Hall, 820 Enfield Street.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Scott Kaupin; William Lee; Cindy Mangini; Patrick Crowley; Greg Stokes; Chuck Johnson; Judy Apruzzese-Desroches; and Joyce Hall.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Matthew Coppler, Town Manager and John Gallacher, Superintendent of Schools.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS IN THE AUDIENCE:** Peter Jonaitis; Donna Szewczak; and Vinny Grady.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 10/19/10 MEETING:**

Minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

**ENFIELD ELEMENTARY REPORT by GM2:**

David Arai presented a report titled "Enfield Street Elementary School – High School Conversion Modifications". It consisted of three parts. The first part was the "Existing Conditions" at Enfield Street School (ESS). ESS is a single story 53,300 square foot masonry, concrete structure. Mr. Arai basically told the audience how space is currently used at ESS. The "Required Modifications" portion of his presentation gave an overview of what work needs to be done to make ESS accommodate high school students. Those modifications included making the school ADA compliant for high school youngsters, adding lockers, creating science labs (note: two 1060 square foot labs could be created that Mr. Arai described as "somewhat tight for a modern lab but better than existing condition"); renovating bathrooms with adult size fixtures; and related items to accommodate high school students. The final portion of Mr. Arai's report addressed "Suggested Modifications" which included the elimination of a number of "attractive nuisances" such as exposed fire alarms, sprinkler heads; and plumbing pipes. Mr. Aria projected a cost of \$2,574,499.00 to complete the work in his report. After some questions were answered the committee thanked Mr. Aria for his report and he departed.

**NINTH GRADE ACADEMY CONCEPT PRESENTATION:**

Tony Torre, Assistant Superintendent; Paul Newton, Fermi High School Principal; and Tom Duffy, Enfield High School Principal addressed the committee on the academy concept. They felt that this was a student grouping issue more than a building issue since schools are accomplishing it within a building and not necessarily requiring a separate building. They stated it groups the incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders into academic teams (much like Kennedy Middle School) and that by selectively isolating them from the 10-12 graders that the 9<sup>th</sup> graders adjust better to high school and the drop out rate is reduced.

Mr. Duffy then presented his thoughts on creating a "campus environment" at EHS using ESS and "a unique and untried blend of scheduling" to accommodate the travel/passing time that would be required to get from ESS to EHS. This presentation represented Mr. Duffy's personal opinion as the Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent, and the other high school principal are not in favor of using ESS as an annex to EHS.

Mr. Newton next presented a Staffing Projection report on a combined high school using the demographer's estimates through 2016-17. He noted that these are not "hard numbers" as unknown factors, such as new graduation requirements, could affect required course offerings. If everything remained unchanged however it would require 15.8 FTE fewer teachers.

#### **COST SAVINGS ANALYSIS:**

Mr. Coppler then presented a cost and savings analysis if the high schools were combined. He noted that the savings need to be considered as "cost avoidance". Mr. Coppler used the four options in the GM2 report (partial renovation as Option 1 and renovate entire building to new as Option 2 at both schools) as the base for his calculations. He projected State cost share at the 60%, 80%, and 100% reimbursement rates, calculated the cost of the various bond options, and subtracted the annual "cost avoidance" (i.e. salaries; bus costs; utilities estimate) if we combined to one high school. The baseline basically showed that the annual cost avoidance offset the bond repayment over a 20 year period. Mr. Coppler's presentation is on the Town's webpage.

#### **ITEMS FROM THE TABLE:**

The Mayor asked the Town Manager where the subcommittee needs to go from here. Mr. Coppler replied that he felt the committee needed to decide which high school and which option.

Subcommittee members asked if the Board of Education could discuss the idea of organizing the 9<sup>th</sup> graders into academic teams and also project the staffing needs for the new graduation requirements contained in PA 10-111. Mr. Stokes indicated that the Board of Education would hold such a discussion.

The next meeting of this committee will be announced at a later date.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Gallacher, Superintendent  
Recorder