

## **PK-5 School Modernization Committee Meeting 04/04/2023**

**Committee Members Present:** Lauren Andrews, Moregan Beaulieu, Danielle Chabot, Maureen Griffin, Emily Hulevitch, Walter Kruzel, Leslie Lawlor (Sec.), Vicky MacLeod, Kelsey McGuire-Bruce, Nicole Ricci, Aimee Sobinski, Jessica Soule, Shannon Steere, Jacquelyn Sawn, Kurt Stroiney, Jennifer Wheeler

**Committee Members Absent:** none

**Liaisons Present:** Scott Ryder (BOE), Tina LeBlanc (BOE), Christopher Drezek (EPS), Andy Longey (EPS), John Dague (EPS), Fred Gerber (ToE), Janet Cushman (BOE), Bob Cressotti (TC), Gina Cekala (TC), Ken Nelson (TC)

**Liaisons Absent:** none

**Committee Guests:** John Santanella, Andrew Berrios, Jaclyn Valley, Amber Venoutsos, Alex Reale, Mary Trifone, Charlotte Zenzick, Sheree Winans, Tami Croyle

### **Stowe Early Learning Center Tour**

1963 neighborhood school

1994/2002 – gym and additional classrooms

Closed in reorg 2011 - became CREC school with Public Safety

Work done to divide up building at that time

2015 moved programs in – window and doors

Kitchen wall divider

2019 – moved Headstart in

ECDC moved into gym – became air conditioning

48,000 sq feet – EPS 247

Most high needs – for programs

Integrated – SPED services

All 3 programs have SPED students integrated

EPS, PK-Steam Academy, Integrated PreK, Headstart, ECDC infant/toddlers, PreK and school age, FRC

Unique program constraints – certain have space requirements (sq footage/student)

Several different funding sources – BOE, federal Headstart, state Headstart, Smart Start, paid PreK

Use of funding for different funding

Parent/student ratios, student ratios

Nursing requirements different

Nutrition requirements

Laundry needed

Adult bus monitors – additional parking requirements

Building is full – additional spaces needed

Current needs – at least 2 classrooms, gym, space for CHC, 4 private offices, OT/PT space, calming room, sensory room, private conference room, return of the Play Lab

HeadStart/Family support office and Security – houses 4 people at entrance

Mix of programs – some have AM and PM sessions – half day Headstart/half day integrated

Speech language share space divided by cabinets – 95 students total – 81.5 hours  
Storage spaces converted to rooms – storage in the halls for materials

Kite offices

PlayLab is now two FRC spaces and two OT/PT spaces on the stage

Gym space – air conditioned in 2019

4 ecdc before and after school classes

Cleared off during the day for preK programming

Custodians break down and set up sometimes multiple times a day depending

If weather impacts the students going outside – they need to have space in the gym

4 separate soft surface playgrounds in the back of the school – 5<sup>th</sup> in front

Headstart was separated from rest of the school programs – moved here to bring them together

Opps for curriculum, prof dev, services,

ECDC is a town program sharing the space – have been in Alcorn, on South Road before moving here

Occupants of the space would need to be looked at down the road

Closet space to offices

Glass atrium became new bathrooms – reached capacity for min # of bathrooms

220 kids

102 Headstart funded seats

70 Steam funded seats

80-120 integrated

470-480 kids using the space per day in the building

More than any of our elementary schools

Younger students typically have more sq footage allocated – why some classrooms limited to 16-18 kids

Standard size classrooms originally for 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade at 940 sq feet per room

New plan preK room typically 1100-1200 sq feet to account for movement space

Offering services in places that were never really intended to be used for that purpose

Programs all fit together in this building

### **JFK Tour**

JFK upgrades – Renovate as New

Kept existing structure of the building – took out major mechanical, electrical systems

Made it essentially a new building

Universal design – accessible and usable for all users

Main entrance has double doors

Door to Main Office without entering the school

Main conference room in the main office, guidance, nurse, principal  
Student can move from the nurse to the office to leave with a parent

All main offices separated from the rest of the school  
Support spaces are really impressive in a renovate as new  
Nurse has privacy glass in office – can talk without students hearing  
Physical separation but can still see the students  
Separate waiting area

Staff workrooms placed around the hub

Science classrooms – eye wash and emergency shower  
Flexible space – moveable desks to accommodate group work  
Teaching walls all have writeable surfaces  
Natural light as well as adjustable lighting – useable for everyone  
Regulated heat/air  
Sound deadening panels to eliminate echoes  
Kids with sensitivity to sounds  
Thoughtfully considered these things when designing the building  
Integrated speaker systems in classrooms  
Computers on articulating mounts

Woodshop – partnership with Asnuntuck – taught teachers CAD to prep for classes at EHS  
Separated workspaces from the computer lab  
Own ventilation systems  
Overhead doors can extend class space into the hallway if needed (i.e. for Robotics, etc.)

Writeable walls and windows  
Soft seating for collaboration  
Built in storage  
Lighting controls  
HVAC  
Cable raceways in place to run new wires if needed in the future

Worked with the staff to help design the classrooms specifically for the needs of the programs  
Staff very much involved in the decisions

John Santanella Presentation  
Created presentation after learning that we are part of the Alliance District  
Look at where EPS has been and where we are now  
2010 – Town of Enfield spent a little over \$12k per student to educate a child  
How are we doing relative to other districts?  
A little below the average – typical middle-class community  
We were pretty far down the list - 147 out of 167 districts at the time

Today we spend roughly \$16k per student to educate them  
We are not even in the top 25  
Top schools district is Sharon and they spend \$43k per student

Look at school districts roughly the size of Enfield – where do we stand?  
About 5,100 students in our district

Compared us to 6 districts above and 6 below  
We are at \$15,900 per student  
Top spender is \$21k per student  
Bottom is also \$21k per student  
Average of all is about \$20k per student  
And we are at \$16k  
Feels like we are a little off  
We need to start thinking about those implications  
DRG – District Regional Group  
Based on communities like ours based on socioeconomic framework – income, etc.  
In our DRG – average spending is \$19k per student  
We are ranked at 159 out of 166 – 7<sup>th</sup> from the bottom  
Part of the work we do improving our facilities needs to translate into moving us up the scale  
Reinforcing the idea that we need to try to find a way to put more \$ into the students  
South Windsor, Woodstock, Ellington – spending about the same as we are – not in Alliance District  
Education is a function of economics  
Over time we have become less affluent – now having to deal with the issues of poverty in our district  
People who are less affluent are more expensive to educate  
Still an opportunity for us to be able to offer premiere services to the students in our school system

2001 – 20% of students qualified for free or reduced lunch  
Today – over 55% are qualified  
That trend line is not going in a favorable direction  
District has transformed over the years

Other towns kept investing in their students – kept pace with growth  
Previously 146 and 148 – in 2021 Granby is now at \$19k per student  
Newton is now \$20k – both towns moved up the rankings  
Families moving into a community are looking at the schools  
Others have kept pace and continued to invest – providing services and quality of education  
Attract a wider variety of people in those communities  
Take this opportunity to transform our entire school district to attract a more diversified group of people

Workgroup Breakout Session

SR - Is it the consensus of this Committee to move forward and present at the Town Council that our recommendation is to go back to a K-5 model?

A Roll Call Vote was taken with the following Committee members in agreement:

Lauren Andrews  
Moregan Beaulieu  
Danielle Chabot  
Maureen Griffin  
Emily Hulevitch  
Leslie Lawlor  
Vicky MacLeod  
Kelsey McGuire-Bruce  
Nicole Ricci  
Aimee Sobinski  
Jessica Soule  
Shannon Steere

Jacquelyn Sawn  
Kurt Stroiney  
Jennifer Wheeler

Committee members abstained:  
Walter Kruzel

Next meeting – 4/5/23  
Joint Special Meeting with Town Council and Board of Education in Council Chambers 7:00pm