

East Lyme Board of Education
East Lyme Elementary Schools Design Steering Committee Meeting

October 21, 2014

4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present: Dr. James Lombardo, Dr. Tim Hagen, Linda Anania, Candice Carlson, Melissa DeLoreto, Gil Gallant, Rob Kupis, Don Meltabarger, Dr. David Miko, Ray O'Connor, Dr. Whritner, Al Jacunski (Jacunski Humes Architects, LLC)

Members Absent: John Arnold, John Rhodes

Community Members Present: Paul Formica, First Selectman

The meeting began at 4:00 p.m. in the Central Office Conference Room

Town of East Lyme 20/20 Vision Update: First Selectman Paul Formica updated the Design Committee on his suggestions for building utilization if a two school option is selected and one building is returned to the Town. He suggested that if Haynes is taken off line, the Town could use Haynes for a variety of offices, including the Town offices. The Town office building could become the Police Station. He also indicated that the Town would be able to make good use of either Niantic or Flanders if they were taken off line. He indicated that Peter Miniutti, Landscape Architect from UConn, could provide his ideas regarding space utilizations for any of the properties. Mr. Formica indicated that between bonds and state reimbursement, he hopes to keep the increase in the mil rate at a minimum for the taxpayer.

NESDEC Demography and Enrollment Projection: Dr. Tim Hagen distributed the final October 2014 NESDEC Demography and Enrollment Projection report for East Lyme which will be presented to the Board of Education at its next meeting on October 27, 2014 by Dr. Kennedy. The report projects a decline of K-12 students from the current enrollment of 2,790 to 2,325 by the year 2024-2025 which is an average loss of 45 fewer students per year. The State will use the October 2014 enrollment of 843 indicated on the NESDEC report to calculate reimbursement. Dr. Lombardo reminded the Design Committee that the decline in enrollment affects all schools and that the middle school and high school could house Coastal Connections, the Transition Program or elementary classrooms during construction in the not too distant future.

Concept Decision: The Design Committee's consensus is that the two school option should be presented to the Board of Education as the best option educationally for students and most fiscally responsible for the Town. The Design Committee will draft a list of variables for each site location to best determine which two sites are the most viable. The variables will include, but not be limited to, educational value, cost, town and community usage, transportation, traffic patterns, redistricting, adjacent amenities, impact on surrounding neighborhoods, security and safety, and parking.

Niantic and Flanders Site: Al Jacunski reported that it would cost approximately \$38 million to renovate Flanders School as new and \$40 million to build a new school on the property behind the current Flanders School. Al reviewed an updated site plan for Niantic Center School including parking space, traffic patterns, and new gym location. Al reminded the Design Committee that even though the State will reimburse for the demolition of the classrooms currently used by LEARN at Lillie B. Haynes School, the State will not reimburse for any percentage of renovation that LEARN would continue to occupy.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 28, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. in the Central Office Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Timothy Hagen
Timothy Hagen, Ph.D.
Committee Co-Chair

Dr. James Lombardo
James D. Lombardo, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools