

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
WINDSOR BOARD OF EDUCATION
APRIL 27, 2010**

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2010 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WINDSOR BOARD OF EDUCATION. ANY ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS WILL BE MADE AT A FUTURE MEETING.

10-62 CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE TO THE FLAG AND ONE MINUTE OF PRAYER OR SILENT MEDITATION

A Special Meeting of the Windsor Board of Education was held on Tuesday, April 27, 2010 in the Council Chambers at Town Hall. President Milo Peck called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. Present were: President Milo Peck, Vice President Christopher McAuliffe, David Gay, Howard Jubrey, Jr., Paul Panos, Doreen Richardson, Cristina Santos, Christopher Watts and Superintendent Feser. Ms. Lucille Brown was absent.

10-63 AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

President Peck invited audience to visitors to spend 3 minutes commenting on any school related activities or concerns. There were no audience to visitors.

10-64 REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TASK FORCE

President Peck recognized Dr. Feser who stated that 1 year and 2 months ago the Board of Education decided to form the Elementary School Task Force, which was made up of 21 individuals (parents, teachers, community leaders and board members) who met each month and worked diligently, obtaining information from DRA (Drummey Rosane Anderson) and the community. Dr. Feser thanked the Task Force members for their hard work, and acknowledged that it is not an easy task for 21 people to come up with a presentation of such quality. Dr. Feser asked Mr. Tim Curtis to speak on the presentation of the Task Force.

Mr. Tim Curtis, Task Force Chair, thanked the Task Force members for all of their hard work and time commitments. Mr. Curtis also thanked Dr. Feser for all of the hard work she put in.

Mr. Curtis advised that the Task Force was charged with the duties of developing a strategic long-range plan centered on a vision for the Windsor Public Schools going to 2015 with a focus on full-day kindergarten and pre-school education; enrollment and implications for programs and facilities; and educational program needs. Mr. Curtis stated that the first thing the Task Force did was examine the demographics of Windsor, CT. In doing so, the Task Force noted a significant decline in enrollment both historically and projected. This is a Country-wide issue, not only an issue to the Town of Windsor, or the State of Connecticut.

The Task Force started their examinations at the Elementary School level, in April, 2009. DRA looked at the facilities themselves, in July, 2009. At that time, DRA also conducted interviews with staff members and administration.

The Task Force held 3 community workshops which allowed discussions with the community and were very important. Actually, one of the concepts presented to the Board at tonight's meeting came from one of the workshops. These workshops allowed for establishing evaluation ideas as well as forming recommendations for the Board's consideration.

Mr. Curtis introduced Mr. Jim Barrett, DRA Consultant. Mr. Barrett thanked everyone for having him at the meeting and reiterated that the decline in enrollment is an throughout the United States. Mr. Barrett stated that the process began over a year ago, at which time a set of building blocks were created to include, collecting, listening, visioning and presentation. These would be the four strategic items to come up with the ultimate recommendation(s) to the Board of Education.

Collecting, performed over the summer months, and included the review of each building without disruption to the student population. The review showed well maintained older buildings which require the attention they are receiving.

Listening, provided an opportunity for DRA to meet with key staff members for ½ day sessions to discuss how the buildings are performing currently.

Visioning, workshops were designed to get the Community talking. The meeting spaces were arranged with a lot of materials on the walls. There were also break-out sessions to discuss specific topics people wanted to discuss.

Presentation, an Executive Summary was presented to the Board of Education at this meeting. This summary addresses existing conditions, planning options; and, MEP reports.

Mr. Tim Curtis advised that the intent was to explore the widest range of options. Windsor Board of Education is not looking to close schools, as other Towns are doing.

Option A: 5 buildings: PK-K; 1-5; 1-5; 1-5; 1-5
½ day Kindergarten
No Planned Projects;
Upgrades/Repairs as needed – CURRENT CONFIGURATION

Option C: 4 buildings: PK-K; 1-5; 1-5; 1-5
Full day Kindergarten
Renovation Projects

Option F: 4 buildings: PK-5; K-5; K-5; K-5
Full day Kindergarten
Renovation Projects

Option G: 4 buildings: PK-2; K-2; 3-5; 3-5
Full day Kindergarten
Renovation Projects

Each of these options were thoroughly examined by the Task Force. These options keep to the charge given to the Task Force by the Board of Education. With the help of DRA, the Task Force put together a grid matrix which stated 9 criteria items each option was required to meet. The criteria included academic strength, parity and other considerations. Option G was the only option that seemed to fulfill all of the criteria being reviewed by the Task Force.

The Task Force strongly recommends Option G based on the presentation given this evening. This was a unanimous choice among the Task Force members.

Dr. Feser acknowledged that this was a lot of information to take in at one time, and respectfully advised that the Board take the presentation materials home and review them again.

President Peck recognized Cristina Santos and asked her for her thoughts on this presentation, as she was a member of the Task Force. Ms. Santos thanked the Task Force members for all of their hard work and agreed that this process was intensive, arduous, thorough and painstaking. Ms. Santos thanked Mr. Barrett for working together with the members of the Task Force and for his patience and prompt responses when he was presented with a question on the spot. Ms. Santos went on to say that the group was very diligent and always considered student achievement first. Ms. Santos stated that she was very comfortable with the report being received at this meeting and agreed that Option G is the best option.

Questions from the Board followed.

President Peck stated that it has been a long time coming and the charges assigned were very complex. He thanked the Task Force for the fine work each member put in.

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Mr. Bradshaw Smith, 23 Ludlow Road, stated that the report from the Elementary School Task Force seemed to be based solely on the decline of enrollment in the future. He additionally stated that the Deerfield, Hayden and Wolcott Schools were closed and demolished for the same reasons and then an additional \$13M was needed to expand the Middle School. Mr. Smith believes that enrollment is as fickle as the weather and stated that enrollment has currently increased in the Windsor School System. He urges the Board of Education to proceed with caution.

Dr. Feser respectfully corrected Mr. Smith in the fact that enrollment in the school system is actually down about 100 students, and apologized to Mr. Smith for any miscommunication on that point.

10-66 ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Christopher McAuliffe made a motion to adjourn at 8:27pm. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cristina Santos.

Motion Passed 8-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Doreen Richardson, Secretary
Windsor Board of Education