

School Facilities Review Committee Minutes

April 4, 2018, 6:00 PM

City Hall, Room 335

Mark Bettencourt called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Committee Members Present: Chair Mark Bettencourt, Vice Chair Tricia Staley, Alderman Joseph DeLucia, Alderwoman Stacy Gould, Board of Education Member Dr. Yvette Jacaruso, John Levangie, Paula Rosenberg Bell, Susan Blinderman, Charles Cottle, Ryan Telford, Superintendent Abby Dolliver (ex-officio), Mayor Peter Nystrom (ex-officio)

Committee Members Excused: Delisia Dollinger, Attorney Michael Driscoll (ex-officio), Comptroller Joshua Pothier (ex-officio), City Manager John Salomone (ex-officio), Business Administrator Athena Nagel (ex-officio), Facilities Supervisor Dolores Thayer (ex-officio)

Others Present: Deputy Comptroller Anthony Madiera

Determination of Quorum: It was determined a quorum was present.

Prior Meeting Minutes: None

Citizen Comment: None

New Business: Mayor Peter Nystrom thanked the members of the committee in advance for presenting diverse views that will acknowledge the needs of the students. He also thanked Chair Mark Bettencourt for returning to the effort.

The committee was handed copies of the Norwich Public Schools (NPS) School Facilities Strategic Planning Study, a summary of the study and a sheet presenting current NPS enrollment.

Mark led the committee in a round of introductions.

On a motion by Alderwoman Stacy Gould, seconded by John Lavangie, the committee unanimously voted to meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 6 PM with special meetings scheduled as needed. It was agreed that July's meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

On a motion by Yvette Jacaruso, seconded by Tricia Staley, the committee members unanimously voted to follow Robert's Rules of Order Revised for all meetings.

Mark read a drafted a statement concerning goals for the committee. He will email it to the group for review and discussion at next meeting.

Mark asked the members to read the reports and be prepared for discussion at the next meeting. The ultimate goal of the committee is to make a recommendation to the Board of Education (BOE) then to the City Council. During the process, the committee will regularly report out to BOE and City Council. The committee will make every effort to solicit input from governing bodies.

John asked if tours of each individual school could be arranged for the committee membership. Abby recommended visiting during a school day. This suggested will be considered.

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Susan suggested that it is the responsibility of each committee member to communicate about the committee's work throughout the community.

Abby suggested looking at enrollment trends and assessing the current buildings.

Joe noted the opportunity to build the foundation for the next fifty years of education in Norwich.

Chuck inquired about the potential time line for the committee. Mark noted that a referendum must be proposed by early June 2019 to be added to the November 2019 ballot. Abby mentioned taking the state reimbursement approval process into account. She suggested sending committee members to the state department that handles school buildings to ask about the programs and their timeline. Tricia noted keeping in mind the length of time in which the schools can be operated in their current condition.

Ryan noted the importance of querying parents for their input. Abby added that staff has very valuable input.

Joe suggested holding the monthly meetings at a different school each month. The committee agreed this will be considered.

Old Business: None

Adjournment: On a motion by John Lavangie, seconded by Tricia Staley, the meeting adjourned at 6:48 PM.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 2, 2018, at 6 PM, in City Hall Room 335.

*Respectfully submitted,
Melinda Wilson
Recording Secretary*