

School Facilities Review Committee Minutes
May 1, 2019, 6:00 PM
Kelly STEAM Magnet Middle School Community Room

Mark Bettencourt called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Committee Members Present: Chair Mark Bettencourt, Vice Chair Tricia Staley, Alderman Joseph DeLucia, Alderwoman Stacy Gould, Board of Education Chairperson Dr. Yvette Jacaruso, Community Representative John LeVangie, NPS Staff Susan Blinderman and Cindy Beauregard, Parent Representative Ryan Telford and Charles Cottle, Superintendent Abby Dolliver (ex-officio) and Business Administrator Athena Nagel (ex-officio)

Committee Members Absent: Community Representative Paula Rosenberg Bell, Attorney Michael Driscoll (ex-officio), Facilities Supervisor Ed Guntner (ex-officio), Mayor Peter Nystrom (ex-officio), Comptroller Joshua Pothier (ex-officio) and City Manager John Salomone (ex-officio)

Others Present: None

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

Prior Meeting Minutes: On a motion by Yvette Jacaruso, seconded by John LeVangie, the meeting minutes of April 3, 2019 were unanimously approved as presented.

Citizen Comment: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

Review and Discussion of School Facilities Planning Study:

Chair Mark Bettencourt showed a Power Point he created which summarized Sections 7: Consideration of Options and 8. Building Assessments of the Norwich Public School Facilities Strategic Planning Study presented by JCJ Architecture, LEARN and B&G on July 5, 2016. The Power Point is attached to these minutes. Discussion ensued on existing school buildings, options for these schools and potential restrictions. He began with Section 7. Much discussion ensued.

Alderwoman Gould requested clarification of the overall restrictions on the school buildings due to grants, loans and amortizations. Superintendent Abby Dolliver and Business Administrator Athena Nagel reported that NTA, Kelly and Case Street need to remain as schools due to amortization; the other school buildings can change use. The magnet programs should remain but they can be held in different buildings.

Mark suggested collecting current enrollment statistics per grade. Abby will email this information to committee members prior to the next meeting.

Discussion ensued on special programs.

Mark reviewed Section 8 of the study. He displayed the graphics of the layouts of the building on their lots and potential expansion of the schools from the 2016 Study.

School Facilities Review Committee Minutes
May 1, 2019, 6:00 PM
Kelly STEAM Magnet Middle School Community Room

Current state reimbursement rates were reviewed. Mark noted that the renovate-as-new reimbursement rate is 10% higher than the build-new rate; however, new construction is often less expensive. He suggested that committee members keep open minds.

Mark asked committee members to review Section 8 in detail and come to the next meeting ready to discuss.

Discussion of Past and Potential Future Plans:

Agenda item not specifically addressed.

Anything else to be brought before the committee:

Athena brought a Gantt chart to the committee. She handed out copies of this graphical timeline displaying the action items, in chronological order, to bring a Bond Ordinance to public vote and through state grant commitment in March 2021.

Discussion ensued about the city budgeting process. As the timeline indicated, certain architectural services would need to be built into the City's FY20 budget.

Adjournment: On a motion by Yvette Jacaruso, seconded by Alderwoman Gould, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 5, 2019, at 6 PM, at the Kelly STEAM Magnet Middle School Community Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Melinda Wilson
Recording Secretary