

**EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF EDUCATION
EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 4, 2024
6:00 p.m. - Room A5, Broad Brook Elementary School
14 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT**

Chair K. Carey-Trull called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

In attendance: Chair K. Carey-Trull, Vice Chair H. Spencer, Secretary F. Neill, C. Sevarino, K. Betancourt (joined the meeting at 6:10 PM during Dr. Tudryn's summary of the facilities subcommittee work), E. LeBorious, D. Menard, G. Resto, N. Farmer, Dr. P. Tudryn

Also in attendance: R. Galloway, J. Martin, D. Rouillard, K. MacDonald, First Selectman J. Bowsza and S. Muska from the Town of East Windsor

On a motion by H. Spencer, second by E. LeBorious, Public Participation was moved to the first item of the meeting. PASSED with a unanimous vote by all members present.

No public participation at this time.

On a motion by D. Menard, second by H. Spencer, the Public Participation agenda item was tabled. PASSED with a unanimous vote by all members present.

Dr. P. Tudryn provided an update on the work of the facilities subcommittee. A copy of the CSG Facilities report, a copy of the Demographic Enrollment Study performed by SLAM, a copy of the most recent facilities subcommittee meeting draft minutes, and a copy of Dr. P. Tudryn's facilities memo to the Board from August 28, 2024 regular Board of Education meeting were all included in the packet provided to the Board of Education. He advised the Board that the CSG study was performed as a result of efforts to obtain grants to update school buildings with air conditioning. Due to a number of facilities issues, CSG advised the district would not be able to obtain the HVAC grants. They also advised that repairing the issues as they come up would not be a recommended approach. Dr. P. Tudryn advised that upon receiving the information and recommendations from CSG, an enrollment study was performed in accordance with state regulations. Once that information was received, the facilities subcommittee and district leadership began the process of reviewing the information and options, visiting area schools with members of the board, district leadership, and the East Windsor First Selectman, and meeting with a referendum specialist. Dr. P. Tudryn stated through this work, with consideration to the various financial aspects of the projects including the implications they would have on local taxpayers, the recommendations would be to renovate the elementary school to new and renovate the high school to new, making it a combined middle and high school.

Facilities subcommittee Chair D. Menard reiterated Dr. P. Tudryn's sentiments and opened the topic up to questions and comments from the full Board.

C. Sevarino noted that the recommendations were made following input and conversations from district faculty and staff. She also stated that she found the school tours and conversations with those district leaders very insightful.

N. Farmer advised that the recommendations are being made from an educational perspective, first and foremost, and with the Board objective of continually making improvements for East Windsor students. A combined middle and high school would provide the opportunity for more students to benefit from the resources of the district.

F. Neill expressed concern with parking constraints of a combined middle and high school. D. P. Tudryn advised these concerns will be brought to CSG in next steps for consideration by an engineer. With that in mind, F. Neill requested obtaining more than one option from CSG. D. Menard remarked on the existing parking issues at Broad Brook Elementary School and suggested those concerns be brought to CSG for consideration.

E. LeBorious remarked on the value of shared resources with a combined middle and high school and noted that there would be a financial benefit to maintaining two buildings rather than three. She also noted the current investment to renovate the track at the high school. Dr. P. Tudryn noted the concern of the track renovations was brought to the attention of CSG and, while there was no guarantee, they did not believe the track would be affected.

H. Spencer inquired about the possibility of meeting with representatives from CSG to ask for clarification on various aspects of renovations.

K. Betancourt inquired about the shared spaces such as the library and auditorium. Dr. P. Tudryn clarified the layouts of the buildings that were visited and how those aspects did and did not work as well as how they are able to use shared spaces for community events. K. Betancourt also inquired about the interaction of the students. Dr. P. Tudryn advised various aspects of the student schedules would be taken into consideration including start and end times of the day, class schedules, and transportation.

G. Resto inquired about the grades included in a combined middle and high school. Dr. P. Tudryn advised the goal would be to maintain grades 5 through 8 at the middle school level. E. LeBorious remarked on the benefits of peer education. G. Resto remarked on the benefit of students and families being more comfortable with the combined middle and high school due to not having to transition to a new building in 9th grade.

Discussion ensued relative to the construction specifications of a potential combined middle and high school as well as prospective costs associated with the various options presented by CSG. Dr. P. Tudryn also clarified the various options for how the projects being completed will impact students.

Dr. P. Tudryn informed the Board he will get in touch with CSG and look into next steps.

Chair K. Carey-Trull opened the meeting up for public participation.

J. Ostrout of 2 Rye Street expressed his desire for there to be more input from people on other town boards before the project goes forward. He is in favor of the idea of a combined middle and high school as discussed. He inquired about bonding for the project and expressed concerns regarding the cost of the project. He also had questions and concerns about the process of renovating to new. He also noted the need for various athletic fields.

Wayne Shary of 113 Depot Street inquired about the reason for the CSG facilities study. He was informed the study was done as a result of trying to obtain HVAC grants. He further inquired about the cost to the town of putting air conditioning in the buildings. He expressed concern over the cost to taxpayers of new schools.

William Loos of 44 Melrose Road expressed his opinion to build new schools.

On a motion by F. Neill, second by H. Spencer, the Board adjourned the meeting at 7:12 PM.
PASSED with a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Ripley
Board Recording Secretary