

**EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF EDUCATION
EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 5, 2025
6:00 p.m. - Town Hall Meeting Room
11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT**

I. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Chair K. Carey-Trull called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair K. Carey-Trull led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ATTENDANCE

In attendance: Chair K. Carey-Trull, Vice Chair H. Spencer, Secretary F. Neill, C. Sevarino, K. Betancourt, E. LeBorious, D. Menard, G. Resto, N. Farmer, Dr. P. Tudryn

IV. STATEMENT BY THE BOARD CHAIR

Board of Education Chair K. Carey-Trull read a statement regarding the work to date on the school renovation projects.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Marissa Prior (80 Graham Road) expressed concern with 5th through 12th grade students in a combined middle/high school, specifically inquiring about various instances where students will need to be kept separate and how student safety will be ensured. Ms. Prior suggested making schools kindergarten through 8th grade and 9th through 12th grade.

Dr. P. Tudryn advised that while there would be some shared spaces, the middle school and high school will still operate independent of each other on a shared campus. He shared that many from the Board visited area districts where the same model was used and was successful. E. LeBorious thanked Ms. Prior for sharing her concerns and stated it is a Board priority to keep students safe.

Andrew Hettrick (2 Jesse Lane) shared the importance of updated school facilities. He encouraged the town to move forward with the project. He feels updated buildings will keep quality faculty and staff in the schools and will bring the community together.

Jason Bowsza (121 East Road) thanked people for coming to the meeting. He encouraged members of the public to stay involved in the process and reminded them of the Ad Hoc Committee on School Renovation Planning meeting at 7 PM.

Allie Camire (35 Broad Brook Road) stressed the importance of the project as an investment. She stated she would like to see a younger community move to town. Ms. Camire inquired about teacher interest in the project. She commended teachers for their work, considering the limited resources they have.

Dr. P. Tudryn shared that CSG met with stakeholders from all three schools. He advised that safety was not expressed as a concern. The highest priorities expressed were the space and resources that would be available. G. Resto shared that both the administration and the 5th grade team support keeping 5th grade in the middle school.

Marissa Prior (80 Graham Road) asked if moving 5th grade to the elementary school had been considered.

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Secretary F. Neill shared a list of pros and cons that had been considered by the Board and the administration (see attached).

Marissa Prior (80 Graham Road) asked about the impact on the curriculum.

Dr. P. Tudryn informed her that teacher sharing occurs now. Combining buildings would increase flexibility for staffing.

E. LeBoriosis and Chair K. Carey-Trull encouraged members of the public to stay involved and engaged in the process. D. Menard advised there will be solid division between the middle school and high school portions of the buildings.

Angela Filipone (100 Rockville Road) expressed concerns with security and lockdown protocols.

D. P. Tudryn advised there are several different types of drills. He further clarified the difference between “secure building” and “lockdown” and advised that the schools would have the ability to implement a secure building in individual areas of the building, minimizing the impact on students.

Amber Russell (337 Rye Street) inquired about the timeframe for the project and if students would transition to new buildings mid-school year.

Dr. P. Tudryn advised that conceptual designs will have to be drafted followed by structural designs. At this time, the timeline is fluid with the priority being the middle/high school and then Broad Brook Elementary School.

Following a request from the public, Board members introduced themselves.

Valerie Galinski (32 Abbe Road) inquired about the developmental impact on students.

Chair K. Carey-Trull reminded the public that 5th grade has been part of the middle school for at least 15 years. Dr. P. Tudryn advised that school psychologists did participate in weighing the pros and cons of keeping the 5th grade at the middle school and did not have concerns.

Secretary F. Neill shared how the project came about as a result of the need for a litany of updates to current school facilities.

Andrew Hettrick (2 Jesse Lane) inquired about if maintenance would continue on existing buildings while the renovations project was being considered.

Chair K. Carey-Trull advised that the facilities subcommittee is taking current needs into account. N. Farmer advised work is still being done as needed with taxpayer impact in mind.

Clarification of the project timeline was requested.

Vice Chair H. Spencer advised that the timeline is still unknown at this phase of the project. She advised that ideally the combined middle/high school construction would take place first and Broad Brook renovations would take place second. E. LeBoriosis advised that the Board is following the guidance of CSG. Dr. P. Tudryn advised that all committees involved in the project are considering all factors to determine the best way to move forward with the projects.

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D. Menard advised that CSG will look at the best way to move forward now that it has been decided that 5th grade will stay at the middle school. Decisions will be made based on considerations such as taxpayer cost, state reimbursement, size of the buildings, etc. She encouraged the public to join the meetings and be involved as often as possible.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

Vice Chair H. Spencer thanked the public for their support. A member of the public expressed gratitude for the ways the district is keeping students engaged and supported.

Chair K. Carey-Trull advised that the website is a good resource for the most up to date information.

Chair K. Carey-Trull allowed a member of the public to make a comment. Wayne Shary (113 Depot Street) expressed displeasure with the 3 minute rule during public comment.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Vice Chair H. Spencer, second by G. Resto, the Board adjourned the meeting at 6:54 PM. PASSED with a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Ripley
Board Recording Secretary

APPROVED 03.26.25

Considerations to moving 5th into the Elementary School

Possible Pros	Possible Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional Prek-5 school model • Increased access to playground equipment • Eliminate school secondary school administrator • May help with family perceptions with 5th grade moving into combined campus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of daily electives/specials for 5th grade from 2 to 1 • Elimination of afterschool activities for 5th grade. Currently 11 options are offered twice a week throughout the course of the school year. • Removal of 5th grade from MS student council and MS related activities and field trips • Elimination of participation for MS sports for 5th grade - primarily Cross Country (10), Basketball (3), Track (19), Softball (4) • Possibility of TAG being starting at 6th grade (currently starts at 5th grade) or teacher being split between buildings. • Increased the elementary school size to 600 students in the building (includes FRC) • Lower staff morale - greatest academic growth is typically in 5th grade. Perceptions of administrators and staff indicate the desire for 5th grade to remain as part of MS. Over 20 years has functioned as part of the school community. • Reduces the eligible square footage for state reimbursement for new MS/HS facilities. • Requires additional BBS staff - Social Worker, PE teacher, World Language, Band, Behavioral support and possible other specials areas necessary to maintain current levels of programming • Expand Discovery program at BBS with extra grade both in sq footage/space and staffing; Program is currently at max enrollment • BBS will become the largest school in the district. Research consistently indicates that smaller population elementary schools tend to have positive impacts on student achievement, particularly for disadvantaged students, with benefits

	<p>including higher test scores, improved attendance, increased student engagement, and a stronger sense of community compared to larger schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Increased transportation costs. Requires more buses to complete the elementary run● Increased scheduling challenges with staffing related to interventionists, special education, world language and specials including music/band at both BBS and MS● Increase the number of lunch waves and/or expand the cafe size in the plans?
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