

**FACILITIES COMMITTEE
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**WEDNESDAY,
JUNE 3, 2009**

A meeting of the Board of Education Facilities Committee was held on Wednesday, June 3, 2009, at the East Hartford Board of Education Administration Offices, 1110 Main Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 6:40 P.M. by Chairman Robert Damaschi.

PRESENT Robert Damaschi, Chairman, Facilities Committee
Anita Morrison, Facilities Committee Member & BOE Member
Bryan Hall, Facilities Committee Member, & BOE Member
Karen Howe, Member, BOE
Marcus Oladell, IV, Member, BOE

ALSO PRESENT Mark Zito, Superintendent of Schools
Al Costa, Director of Facilities
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Mike Moan, Director of Security
George Simons, Coordinator of Transportation
Alan Kramer, Goodwin College
Todd Andrews, Goodwin College
Mark Scheinberg, President Goodwin College

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Anita Morrison
Seconded by Bryan Hall
To approve the following Minutes:
Meeting of May 19, 2009
Motion unanimously carried.

Todd Andrews of Goodwin College to Present Plan/Proposal for Willowbrook School

Mr. Andrews stated Goodwin College would like to create an early childhood development center that would also have a daycare. Further they would like to expand their curriculum. The College does not have space for this type of environment. Mr. Andrews stated they have proposed to the Town the acquisition of Willowbrook School and leasing it back to the Town for however long Willowbrook would need the school.

Mr. Andrews noted Willowbrook School presently has a parking problem. He would like to acquire excess parcels that are presently State owned, and also construct a building on the site of Willowbrook for a laboratory school. Parking could be on the west side. Mr. Andrews stressed they are in no hurry to pursue this.

Mr. Costa asked if the proposed west side parking lot would be available to Willowbrook School. Superintendent Zito asked where is the population coming from – Hartford and suburbs.

Mr. Aberasturia asked what is the benefit for East Hartford Public Schools. He further noted there is no benefit to the Board – it will benefit the Town. In response to Mr. Aberasturia, it was noted that the exiting operation could be enhanced.

The timeline for construction would be year 2012.

Superintendent Zito commented to Messrs. Mainuli and Costa: at some point we will re-acquire Barnes School. Could Barnes host Willowbrook. Mr. Costa replied we would have to look at redistricting. Ms. Howe stated we must consider the transportation issue. It is not accessible to the parents of Willowbrook School.

Upon the arrival of Mr. Scheinberg, he stated “we are not trying to take Willowbrook School. We would like to use their property. Willowbrook can stay for whatever amount of time they wish. We would eventually like to acquire the property.”

Chairman Damaschi suggested to the Committee that the Board get together and brainstorm. Ms. Morrison believes the concept would be a plus.

EHHS Traffic Issues

Mike Moan, Director of Security

Mr. Moan noted that Leonard Drive was made into a two lane road. Busses cannot travel down Leonard Drive. However, the main problem area is cars existing near the library area and wanting to turn left onto Forbes Street. EH Police Department cannot assign anyone to direct traffic. They do not have enough manpower. We can, however, assist with our Security personnel on the EHHS property, but not on Forbes Street. Mr. Hall asked if we can train a security officer to direct traffic.

Superintendent Zito stated he will meet with the EH Police Department regarding having an officer in that area from 7:10 – 7:30 A.M.

NEW BUSINESS

It was also noted the staff at Norris School is concerned with parking.

It was the suggestion of Mr. Hall that either Facilities, or Future Planning, meet to discuss parking issues at Willowbrook and Norris schools. Regarding Willowbrook School, Mr. Oladell suggested having security services hired or a security guard who can direct traffic next year.

OLD BUSINESS - None

MOTION

By Anita Morrison

Seconded by Bryan Hall

To adjourn the Facilities Committee meeting (7:10 P.M.)

Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:

Donna Fitzgerald