

**FACILITIES COMMITTEE
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 8, 2009**

A meeting of the Board of Education Facilities Committee was held on Thursday, October 8, 2009, at the Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy, 857 Forbes St., East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 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
Ram Aberasturia, BOE Member
Marcus Oladell, IV, BOE Member
Mary Alice Dwyer-Hughes, Chairperson BOE

ALSO PRESENT Mark Zito, Superintendent of Schools
Al Costa, Director of Facilities
Nancy Moriarty, Supervisor, Willowbrook School
Rich Gentile, Town Council

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Anita Morrison
Seconded by Robert Damaschi
To approve the following Minutes:
Meeting of September 21, 2009
Motion unanimously carried.

Update – Willowbrook School

Mr. Gentile was present to give an update on the Willowbrook School property, stating the Town has a party that is interested in the property. He brought forth a Resolution to the Committee and asked that it be approved by the Committee and forwarded to the full Board for its approval.

Chairman Robert Damaschi stated the Board has not done any redistricting at this time. Superintendent Zito stated RFP's have gone out for parties interested in bidding on the redistricting study. Mr. Mainuli, Director of Finance and Mr. Staron, Purchasing Agent, will be opening bids tomorrow as to who will be awarded the redistricting study.

Superintendent Zito gave an update on the East Hartford/Glastonbury Magnet School and noted \$36 million has been approved for construction. The school is expected to open in the Fall of 2011. As a result, within two years, we will have Barnes School available. This will also be a major consideration when we do redistricting.

Superintendent Zito emphasized the redistricting study is to look at all facilities. Sunset Ridge school will be discussed during redistricting as to whether or not it should remain a 6th grade school or not. Superintendent Zito stated it is appropriate to look at Sunset Ridge School with the consideration of making it a K-6 school. He further noted, if we make Sunset Ridge a grade 6-8 model, we risk losing more students.

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Ms. Moriarty stated an appraisal was done last week by Goodwin College.

Board Chairperson Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes noted if we go ahead with the possibility of Goodwin College purchasing Willowbrook, we do not want construction near Willowbrook School. We must be certain to address all safety issues. She further noted she would be willing to go along with Goodwin College if they would honor our demands and requests.

Discussion took place regarding who would pay for the move from Willowbrook to another facility. Superintendent Zito stated we would be responsible. Mr. Costa noted his department would assist with the move. Mr. Costa also asked if we relinquish the Willowbrook property to the Town of East Hartford, would we have to pay electricity and maintain the property. Mr. Gentile stated we could ask if Goodwin College would maintain the property.

Mr. Costa stated there has to be a starting point to address the Willowbrook issue. Due to the many variables to consider and legalities to put in place, it was suggested by the Superintendent to have a meeting this week with Superintendent Zito, Mr. Costa, Mr. Mainuli and Joe Williams, Shipman & Goodwin, to discuss and draw up a lease. The Superintendent suggested Committee members submit as many terms as appropriate to include in the lease and forward them to Superintendent as soon as possible. Another meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday, October 15, 2009, at 5:30 P.M. in the Administration Building. Mr. Gentile will be present and will invite representatives from Goodwin College to attend the meeting.

MOTION By Anita Morrison
Seconded by Bryan Hall
To table approval of the Resolution submitted by Rich Gentile until after the Committee meets on October 15, 2009.
Motion unanimously carried.

A draft of the proposed lease will be available at the next Committee meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Anita Morrison asked what we are doing with the old sound system at EHHS. It had been suggested to donate it to other schools or an organization. Mr. Costa will investigate and report back to the Committee.

Mr. Costa reviewed with the Committee the recent damage done to Mayberry School as a result of a car crashing into the building. Approximately \$36,000 worth of damage was incurred. The Town has advised that we accept \$25,000 that was offered by the insurance company.

MOTION By Anita Morrison
Seconded by Bryan Hall
To accept \$25,000 offered by the insurance company as a claim settlement for damage caused to Mayberry School and forward to the full Board for its approval.
Motion unanimously carried.

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NEW BUSINESS - None

MOTION

By Bryan Hall
Seconded by Anita Morrison
To adjourn the Facilities Committee meeting (6:10 P.M.)
Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:
Donna Fitzgerald