

## SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

**Date: February 3, 2023, 6:30PM**

### Special Meeting Minutes

**In person TOB Common Room & Public Online Video Conference (Zoom): Recording**

\*Minutes are not official until approved at the next regular meeting

Member	Position	Present via Zoom	Present in person	Absent
Katherine Viveiros	Construction Industry Experience	X		
Phil Stevens	Superintendent of Schools (non-voting)		X	
Mike Makuch	Board of Selectmen Representative (Chairman)		X	
James Marshall	Board of Finance representative	X		
Ann Grosjean	Board of Education Member (Secretary)	X		
Gary Anderson	Member at large	X		
Ralph Tulis	Member at large (Vice-Chairman)	X		
Peter Latincsics	Member at large	X		
Justin Niderno	Member at large	X		
Briana Ross	Member at large	X		
Christopher Tillona	Board of Education employee			X
Erika Wiecenski	Member Ex Officio (non-voting)		X	

Also present: Residents in-person and online

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Makuch called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

#### 2. PRESENT TO SPEAK- Comments may be limited in time to allow all present to speak

None.

#### 3. NEW BUSINESS: Consideration of auditorium as a second referendum question

Chairperson Makuch reviewed the discussions that took place at the regular SBC meeting on February 1st regarding their recommendation for a new school on a new site and why they should or should not include an auditorium. He explained they needed a few days to gather more information before making this decision. This included discussions with Scott Pellman and the bond council. Chairperson Makuch, Superintendent Stevens and S. Pellman put together charts with updated numbers to share with the committee and public.

The committee discussed the numbers and the different options. They discussed having the waiver, the reimbursement rate and the penalty for the extra square footage. They discussed if the auditorium was included in the current ed specs. They discussed how this would affect the

taxpayers of Willington. They also discussed keeping the auditorium as a separate project or not and how that would affect them financially and the complexity of it. The committee discussed how this works with the OSCGR. They discussed adding the option of an auditorium to the referendum since townspeople and committee members have expressed an interest in having an auditorium. The committee discussed going back out to the community and giving more clarification and explanation regarding this topic.

S. Pellman explained how this would affect the many fees of the project. He also explained the contingencies and penalties of this project.

First Selectwoman Wicewski explained her conversations with their attorney and bond counsel. She stated that it was not unusual to have an added question. She then explained their action would be to recommend to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance to consider the addition of an additional question if that was their intent. She did caution the committee to not change the original vote from Wednesday.

***Motion by Chairman Makuch to recommend a second question be added to the upcoming referendum about the school project for the taxpayers to approve an auditorium, if the first question passes.***

***Gary Anderson SECONDED the motion.***

#### **Discussion:**

The committee discussed the process when voting as a committee as to whether they wanted to add this question to the referendum or not. They discussed how important it was to have the community decide where to go from here with this project. They felt communicating with the public was essential. Some committee members were not happy with adding this to the referendum and they felt the community did not understand what it would do to the cost. They discussed the numbers that would be on the referendum and what they represented. They discussed the finding on the survey and that a large number of community members did say with a new school they would like an auditorium as well.

S. Pellman explained scenarios to be cautious with; regarding the space waiver, the state and their state legislator. Timing he explained was very important.

***Roll Call Vote: 7 YES 2 NO 0 Abstain***

#### ***Motion Passes***

Member	Vote
Katherine Viveiros	Y
Ann Grosjean	Y
Justin Niderno	Y
Ralph Tulis	N
Peter Latinsics	N
Mike Makuch	Y

Briana Ross	Y
Gary Anderson	Y
James Marshall	Y

#### 4. ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made by E. Wiecenski to ADJOURN the meeting.*

*Chairperson Makuch SECONDED the motion.*

*All in favor, motion carried unanimously.*

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm

Next regular meeting: February 15, 2023

Nicole Fusco  
School Building Committee Recording Secretary

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TOWN CLERK