

TOWN OF GROTON
PHASE II SCHOOL DESIGN COMMITTEE MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2008 – 7:00 P.M.

1) ROLL CALL

Present: Ritter, Smuts, Koehler, Shirvell, Lange, Webster, Kane, Kolnaski (7:15)
Staff: Oefinger, Schneider, Norris, Greenleaf, Bresnyan

Acting Chairman Koehler called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

2) RECEIPT OF CITIZENS PETITIONS / COMMENTS - None

3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 27, 2007

A motion was made by Smuts, seconded by Ritter, to approve the minutes of December 27, 2007 as written.

Motion carried 5 votes in favor, 3 abstentions (Lange, Webster, Kane).

4) ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Review of Scope of Services for Update of Pre-K – 12 Master Planning Study

Scott Celella, Greg Smolley and Anne Iseley from JCJ Architects were present to address the Committee. Mr. Smolley distributed and reviewed a draft scope of services. The scope of services was developed after looking at how the past report was structured. Task 1 Entitled “Validate Preferred Implementation Option” involves updating demographics and looking at recent redistricting. JCJ will also look at the middle school sites under consideration in Phase I, proposed phasing, develop budgets and develop an implementation schedule. Task 2, “Site Investigation”, involves review of utilities, traffic, and site constraints. Task 3, “Conceptual Designs”, will provide conceptual designs for the facilities to be included in Phase II. Mr. Smolley suggested that while JCJ is working on Task 1 (estimated to take until the end of March), committee members be paired with representatives from JCJ to tour schools that have built in other towns.

Lange suggested that the Committee continue to explore elementary school options in Phase II as well as the middle school issue. Shirvell noted that the Board of Education wants to see the plan for the middle schools before addressing the elementary schools. Oefinger suggested that the Committee, with JCJ’s help, must first validate the conclusion that the middle schools need to be addressed. Mr. Smolley noted that JCJ can re-review the condition of the elementary schools and rank them with Wes Greenleaf’s help to determine if there is an underlying physical need that must be addressed earlier rather than later. Mr. Smolley suggested that the Committee focus on the middle schools, and once the preliminary costs are developed, the Committee can look at alternatives for additional work.

Greenleaf reiterated that the Board of Education has validated the educational specifications and agreed that the middle schools are to be addressed next.

Discussion followed on validating the decisions made for Phase II and identifying future phases. Mr. Smolley explained that the location of the middle schools is less demographically driven than the elementary schools, but transportation costs and time on a bus are factors.

Oefinger explained the next step is to enter into a contract with JCJ. The next time that JCJ will address the Committee is the end of March, which means there is no reason for the Committee to meeting every two weeks.

Mr. Smolley suggested that Jim Hoagland from JCJ come to the Committee meeting on January 24th with ideas for schools to visit.

B. Other Items to be Discussed - None

5) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Smuts, seconded by Kane, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.