

TOWN OF WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT

Special Meeting Notice



AGENCY: Joint Town Council / Board of Education Committee

DATE: January 14, 2015

TIME: 6:30 PM

PLACE: Town Hall - Ludlow Room

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Review of major projects in FY 2015-FY2020 Capital Improvements Program
4. Discuss community services and academic internships
5. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - a) *November 12, 2014
5. Adjournment

Public Act 75-312 requires notice of Special Meetings to be posted in the Town Clerk's Office not less than 24 hours prior to the time of such meeting. No other business shall be considered at this meeting than that listed on this Agenda.

**JOINT BOE/TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
LUDLOW ROOM – TOWN HALL
NOVEMBER 12, 2014**

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

PRESENT: Randy McKenney, Town Council; Ken Williams, Board of Education; Jim Govoni, Town Council; Richard O'Reilly, Board of Education; Jody Terranova, Town Council

ABSENT: Cristina Santos, Board of Education (BOE)

STAFF: Peter Souza, Town Manager; Craig Cooke, Superintendent of Schools

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Rosie Miskavitch, 20 Coach Circle, wished committee members and staff a happy Thanksgiving holiday.

3. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chairperson McKenney opened the discussion by outlining the main topics or items the committee had identified at the October meeting.

- Taping and broadcasting of the Board of Education's meetings from LPW
- Academic internships and local government awareness curriculum
- Pre-K and early childhood education programs
- Re-use of Wolcott School
- Review major Capital Improvement projects (both General Government and Board of Education)
- Other space considerations related to program priorities of Board of Education

The committee began discussion on the first topic.

Taping and broadcasting of the Board of Education's meetings from L.P. Wilson

Board member Williams indicated that the last Board of Education meeting at L. P. Wilson was taped and he believed broadcast by WIN-TV.

Councilor Govoni stated he thought it was a good idea for the Board of Education to be able to broadcast from L.P. Wilson.

Board member O'Reilly asked Superintendent Cooke what the approximate cost of taping the last meeting was. Superintendent Cooke responded that the cost was \$50 with WIN-TV providing both

equipment and staff. He added that the preliminary estimate to equip and wire the Board of Education's board room at L.P. Wilson came to approximately \$43,000.

The committee asked about ownership of camera and broadcast equipment if the room was to be outfitted. Town Manager Souza stated that there could be a variety of approaches to ownership including WIN-TV, Board of Education or general government. This would be a part of future discussions if this idea moved forward.

Chairman McKenney suggested perhaps members of the Board of Education could review and discuss this item in the near future to ascertain the level of interest of the full Board of Education in pursuing this topic further. This item could be discussed at the Board of Education's December meeting.

Early Childhood

Superintendent Cooke gave the committee an update on the Smart Start grant opportunity through the State of Connecticut. Grant applications must be submitted no later than December 19, 2014. The grant requires that it be used toward early childhood programs operated by a public school district. The basic grant requirements include:

- \$75,000 per classroom for rehabilitation, furnishings and equipment
- Potentially a 10-year grant award
- \$75,000 per classroom for annual operations, with a maximum of \$300,000 (4 classrooms)
- Additional Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funds are also potentially available at \$37,000 per classroom
- Preference must be given to students that are 'dual language' as well as students that qualify for free or reduced lunch programs in the Windsor school system
- Approximately 15% of the students would have to be a special education need
- NYAEC accreditation is required

Superintendent Cooke stated that the school system must serve new students and the classroom size should be 15 students per class in order to receive the accreditation. He added that there are presently four classrooms at Oliver Ellsworth School that have a total of 47 students in them. He envisions having seven or eight total classes.

Superintendent Cooke explained that the grant program will give priority to districts that are partnering with the community for so called wrap-around services. They could charge student tuition; however, that would disqualify them for receipt of additional Education Cost Sharing funds.

Chairman McKenney asked about the number of existing classes the district has serving three and four year olds and is there available space in the existing elementary schools? The Superintendent stated that there are presently four classroom spaces at Oliver Ellsworth and perhaps space for two classrooms at Poquonock Elementary School.

Board member O'Reilly asked what type of support services the Board of Education gets from the town. Superintendent Cooke said they could perhaps partner up with the Library or Social Services.

Superintendent Cooke stated he will ask for the Board of Education's approval for this grant during their December 16, 2014 meeting after briefing the Board of Education during their November and early December (12/9/14) meetings about the grant and the proposed uses for it.

Committee members asked about the next steps in determining a reuse for Wolcott School. Town Manager Souza stated that a community outreach meeting to review the re-use of the Wolcott School will occur in either December 2014 or January 2015. As part of the process, staff will also help to assess the condition of major building components and identify life cycle replacement costs of major items at the school.

Academic Internships

Board member Williams stated that he is interested in seeing students have a greater exposure regarding how local government works and the importance of community involvement. He stated he will speak to other Board of Education members to see if there is any interest in developing this idea further.

As background information, Superintendent Cooke and Town Manager Souza said they will develop a synopsis of various partnerships and efforts the schools and town have made in educating students to the workings of community and local government.

The Committee discussed scheduling the next meeting for the second week of January. The primary topic of discussion will be to review of major projects that are outlined in the multi-year Capital Improvements Program.

4. MINUTES

Moved by Board member Williams, seconded by Board member O'Reilly, to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2014 meeting with one correction. Correction: Page 3 – change title after Peter Souza's name to read Town Manager and not Assistant Town Manager.

Motion Passed 5-0-0 (Cristina Santos absent)

5. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Deputy Mayor Terranova, seconded by Board member Williams, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Motion Passed 5-0-0 (Cristina Santos absent)

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Souza, Town Manager
Recording Secretary