

(24)

2020 TASK FORCE
CAUCUS ROOM, 3RD FLOOR, CITY HALL
30-JAN-2012

Chairman Joseph Cavo called the Committee meeting to order at 6:25pm.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Joseph Cavo, Jack Knapp, Fred Visconti, and Tom Saadi (arrived at 6:47 pm).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Gregg Seabury absent as he was out of town on family business.

ExOFFICIO COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Philip Curran, Shailesh Nagarsheth, Mary Teicholz, Colleen Stanley, Benjamin Chianese, Peter Nero and Paul T. Rotello.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Mark Boughton, David. St. Hilaire , Director of Finance; Laszlo Pinter, Deputy Corporation Counsel; Gladys B. Cooper, Chair BOE; Dr. Sal Pascarella, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. William R. Glass, Deputy Superintendent, Antonio Iadorola, P.E., Director Public Works; Richard Jalbert, Director of Sites & Facilities, Danbury Schools; and interested members of the public.

After making introductions, Chairman Cavo stated the purpose of the meeting and read a letter from Mayor Boughton establishing the Ad Hoc Committee and providing information regarding the issues facing the City's Schools.

Mayor Boughton addressed the committee stating that the 2020 Task Force was established to determine a vision for how Danbury Schools will educate children. He continued Task Force discussions, the increasing student population and a review of current capacity led to an initial plan which he would like to present to the committee. He continued, stating the work included the Board of Education, staff and faculty from the schools, public works and consultants. In making school capacity decisions they used consultants in the area of demographics. He stated demographers can be certain with population estimates for about 3 years in advance, but beyond that there is diminished accuracy. He stated that they have collected and analyzed a lot of data including the number of students, birth rates, and migration into and within the City. In addition they looked at the real capacity at every school and spoke with every principal to learn how the buildings are used. From all of that, they came up with a tentative plan and have come before this committee asking for funding to complete feasibility, due diligence, pre-engineering and architectural work necessary to proceed. Once this work is done the plans could be taken to the voters at the November elections.

Chairman Cavo asked Mr. Iadarola to give them more details regarding the plan to address the projected increase enrollment at the City's schools. Mr. Iadarola elaborated on the process for establishing the plan including the cooperation by all of the stakeholders, reviewing use and capacity at each school, current and projected enrollment, and the state requirements for school programs and buildings. He then discussed the plan which would include 3 Sister School Clusters. Within each cluster one school would be expanded to meet capacity needs. The cost of this would be dramatically lower than building new schools. In addition to purchasing land for a new building, they would need to add playgrounds, parking, and new HVAC systems. Further discussion regarding the specific schools and expansion ensued. Mayor Boughton added that this plan saves on long-term operating costs as well because a new building requires additional staff, buses and utilities. Dr. Pascarella added information on the bridge plan to meet the needs until construction

was completed and the addition of buses. He also provided the committee with information on the avoidance of major redistricting which would be required if a new school were built. A discussion regarding the movement between Sister Schools followed. Mr. Iadarola concluded that the funding they are requesting would provide the information necessary to move forward and modify the plan as needed. Then the City would have the necessary information to file permits with necessary state agencies and get the issue on the November ballot.

A discussion regarding preliminary considerations for the Middle Schools, the magnet school, and the Stem Academy occurred.

Mr. Curran asked what the timeline would be. Mayor Boughton and Mr. Iadarola discussed the timeline stating that generally the feasibility and pre-engineering would be done Spring 2012-Summer 2012, preliminary permits completed Summer 2012, Referendum November 2012, and occupancy in 2015.

Mr. Knapp asked about the cost of this phase. Mayor Boughton stated that they are asking the City Council to appropriate \$100,000 which would include contingency. A discussion of this request took place.

Jack Knapp moved to recommend a resolution adopting the recommendations of the 2020 Task Force on Schools, including the authorization of funding a feasibility study for possible renovation and improvements to school facilities not to exceed \$100,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Saadi. After a brief discussion the motion was amended by Mr. Knapp and seconded by Mr. Saadi as follows:

To recommend to the Council, the Resolution authorizing funding for a feasibility study for possible renovations and improvements to school facilities. This funding not to exceed \$100,000. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

There being no further business before the committee, Mr. Visconti moved to adjourn. Mr. Saadi seconded the motion. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Cavo, Committee Chairman

Jack Knapp

Gregg Seabury

Tom Saadi

Fred Visconti



RESOLUTION

CITY OF DANBURY, STATE OF CONNECTICUT

_____ A.D. 2012

RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANBURY

WHEREAS, the Danbury 2020 Task Force charged with studying schools' space needs and issues has convened and examined the options to alleviate schools' overcrowding, and has met with City officials; and

WHEREAS, it is deemed to be in the best interests of the City and of its Schools' system to initiate the preliminary planning and/or engineering necessary to investigate the expansion, renovation and/or improvement of existing schools in preparation for such plans ultimately to be submitted to the State of Connecticut for review and approval; and

WHEREAS, the City and its Schools' System intends to ultimately prepare and submit all necessary and required documents, estimates and plans in order to secure potential funding sources, including local funds as well as State contributions.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council hereby authorizes the preparation of plans and/or engineering studies of feasibility, to commence a program of improvement, repair, renovation and/or expansion of selected elementary and other school facilities, in accordance with such plans as may be finalized.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City and its Schools' System intend to prepare to submit an application for and secure such State funding as may be available in furtherance of said project(s) by formal application in accordance with State procedures and timelines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT funding in the amount of One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000.00) Dollars for the cost of said preliminary plans and/or engineering feasibility is expected to be obtained through the use of contingency funds, as certified by the Director of Finance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT a resolution establishing a Building Committee, authorizing the preparation of schematic drawings and specifications and authorizing the Superintendent of Schools to file a formal grant application with the State Commissioner of Education shall be authorized once specific facilities have been identified for the purposes hereof.