

HES Building Improvement Committee

Meeting Agenda

July 7, 2016

6:00 PM in SAU Conference Room

Present: Joe Boggio, Steve Fecto, Jim O'Malley, April Anderson, Kaylah Hemlow, Deb Carrier, Shawn Lee, Wayne Woolridge, Courtney Hodge, James MacDonell, Sean Leary and Tom O'Connor

Additional School Board Members: Tina McCosker, Holly Kennedy

Invited Guests: Michael Abbott and Molly Kelly

Holly called school board at 6:03

1. Call to Order: Mr. O'Malley called the meeting to order at 6:03.
2. Meet with Legislators – He thanked Congressman Abbott for attending. Ms. Weber was not able to attend.
3. Approval of Minutes – June 22, 2016. Mr. MacDonell had a change on #4 for the spelling of his last name. Motion made to approve and carried

Mr. O'Malley gave a brief overview of why the committee was formed.

BIC formed to resolve space issues in HES. In 2012 the fire inspection report put us in noncompliance due to not having a dedicated fire escape for 1st grade and under students. The district has worked on ideas over the years. The town had allocated some money to resolve this. The committee met with Ms. Clark from the state. One major point was that state funding is not activated yet. We thought it might be a good idea to expand this discussion to the legislature to get any thoughts on how to help resolve this.

Mr. Abbott referred back to what Ms. Clark had said. This has to do with revenue and how it is allocated. His focus has been more on transportation. Most money that has been set aside will be used for bridges. As far as school aide that is another story. Representative Lucy Webber had also been invited but did not make it to the meeting. Ms. Webber served 10 years in the legislature. Mr. Abbott said that Ms. Webber spoke with Susan Ford who is on the education committee in the house. He suggests we move forward with our plan. The State is not as concerned with ADA issues as they are safety.

He spoke about the possibility to enter an LSR. This would be due September 12th. The final date to put it in would be the 23rd. Between September and November people need to co-sponsor. He would need to have a concrete proposal with the cost and what the community would put up. We will not get 100% funding from the state. One problem is lack of revenue. He repeated safety is important. Charter schools have better luck with funding.

We did file an application with Ms. Clark. Some of the issues addressed were heating, fire escapes and the maintenance plan. This was the first step to get us in the door. The September 1st proposal will be more in depth. The State takes recommendations from Ms. Clark's office. Mr. Woolridge feels we have a good chance. If we were to throw out a figure at this point his guess would be 1 million, 1.5 million if the state could pay 60%.

Mr. Abbott feels heating and ventilation is not part of the State's main concern. Mr. O'Malley said a quick look at the fire marshals report this shows what our needs are. This report was attached to the application. Wayne said that we would go ahead on September 1st with preliminary drawings and figures in hopes that legislature will approve funding. Wayne hoped that Mr. Abbott would help with this. He made the point that with no state aid these projects are not plausible.

Mr. Abbott does not want to mess with any efforts we have in the works. He suggests we go forward with the plan that we have. He will talk to Lucy Weber to get her input. Definitely include our expectations for percentages.

Mr. O'Malley asked what an LSR is? Mr. Abbott explained it is a piece of legislation. It needs to have sponsorship and then it will be assigned a bill number. Then it would go to the house and the speaker will assign it to a committee or committees. It will most likely go to the education, ways and means and finance committees. The committees make a recommendation to pass, make changes or set it aside. If it passes with or without changes then it would go to the senate. If it passes there then to the Senator.

Molly Kelley arrived. 6:24. Mr. Abbott summarized where we were at.

Mr. O'Malley reiterated that the 2012 fire inspection left us not in compliance for our younger population of preschool, kindergarten and 1st grade students. We do not have a dedicated fire escape so they can no longer be above the ground floor. We have been through three superintendents. Our town has appropriated some money that can be used to find a solution for this issue. Population has increased and our committee was formed. The committee met with Amy Clark who noted funding is not active at this time for new applications. We reached out to Mr. Abbott to see what steps we could take towards resolving this. It was mentioned again to include our hope for 60% State and 40% town funding. We were looking to Molly Kelly as to how to move forward. Explained again the July and then September application.

Wayne spoke to the substance of the proposal. We are trying to get base needs taken care of. The issue is will we be able to have some State funding by September 2017 to move forward. If there is no aid we know the town will not fund 100%. Wayne spoke about some of the issues with space, large classes, music/art on a cart etc.

Molly thanked us for inviting her and commended our town on how we support our kids. As she understands the fire escape is an issue but not the only one. When she was on the education committee and funding was still issued, most applications were mostly approved. Money was budgeted but only so much was paid out to the schools each year. Schools had to get their own loans to pay the project until the State payments were issued. Since so much money was promised and only some paid out each year it created a "tail" of debt. The "tail" was so large they decided to stop new funding so this could get paid off. These payments maxed out the budget so there was no money for new projects. \$50 million is paid each year to pay off the tail.

Legislation was written that going forward payments would be up front. Some schools would let things go to the point of disrepair to be able to get projects funded. Schools now have to show due diligence on maintenance. We should have a small window of opportunity because of safety. Ms. Clark is a great asset. Going forward Ms. Kelly thinks the legislature feels the pressure of not having money available. There is a surplus right now, she does not know what is going to happen to that. Some feel a rainy day fund would be the way to go. Safety is a very strong message. Some legislatures feel it is not the states responsibility to fix schools. Another piece is some in the community feel we are ok some do not. Reports need to be on file in the way of inspections. It is good that it is an election year, make sure new people know what is important to us. Make safety a priority.

Wayne has heard of Newmarket and ourselves as far as need. Make sure people outside of the district (senators) know where we are at. Maybe a letter to the editor. We need 13 votes in the senate. Mr. Abbott asked if Ms. Kelly felt the current law is good. She does, the problem is the money was not there. It was right to pay off the tail but now we need to move forward. There was talk of proposing legislation to decrease each year what we pay on the tail and use the rest to reinstate the building aid. This would take time. She will get to us where the state is at with the tail. The governor really needs to make this a priority. The increase in enrollment is good. She feels we are a very good school district. We are a model for other schools. She said to keep doing what we are doing. We should get the fire marshal to come in and speak, he would be a great advocate with legislatures. Many other schools that are waiting are not safety issues they just want to make changes.

Mr. Abbott said it would be good to have the fire marshal say something needs to be done about this. An attachment to the September application would be good.

Molly Kelly feels we are doing very well. Mr. MacDonell voiced that we need all the help and voices we can get.

Wayne said we have a great building and improvement committee that knows our issues. He feels the community will come together. Free and reduced numbers are high. Molly would like a letter stating what our issues are for her reference. Also to Mr. Abbott and Ms. Webber.

Ms. Kelly said the party in the majority appoints the senators to the committees. We want to have them on our side. The only bill to introduce would be to increase the cap on the tail. There are those who say no increases. Good to have businesses on our side. All connected.

Wayne Met with Molly Taylor trying to put together to create job opportunities. Using High school rooms to work on credentialing. We will be looking for federal funds to help with this.

Ms. Kelly originally ran to support education. 10 years and she is even more convinced that all our issues come back to education in some way. In the past educators looked to businesses saying can you help us. Tables have turned businesses now come to education. Collaboration is the way to go. She will get back to Wayne with information and speak to fire marshal. She stressed to get the people who will vote to vote the way we want. The economy is much better right now. She plans on staying involved in some way with education.

Mr. Abbott wants to continue to know where we are at and what he can do to help.

Holly adjourned school board portion of meeting. 7:00

Mr. Woolridge thanked the school board members for being here.

4. BIC Subcommittee Reports

Facilities: Set up the plan for maintenance plan.

Public Relations: Came up with a letter to representatives hoping Mr. Leary can put into format for people to submit. Would like to have some statistics to add, how many schools in NH are not up to code and unable to fund, or maybe we should go more towards poverty levels. Mr. O'Malley read the letter.

Comments:

Molly Kelly had stated it is not a bill that is needed.

Mr. Woolridge suggested two things, One: to fund current obligations and Two: to increase the cap.

Kaylah Hemlow suggested that we say as the tail goes down, decrease the cap.

Courtney Hodge thought we should push to have funding, do we really think they will increase the cap.

Need to change wording Mr. O'Malley suggested nonspecific. Ask all potential elected officials to support building aid.

Send also to all the people running and the people currently serving.

Mr. O'Malley asked to see the copy of the after school letter that was used. Fashion ours after this. We have time to work on this.

Kaylah suggested to send out a generic copy to others not just Hinsdale.

Sean presented a copy of script for answering questions.

Comments:

After report was written that fire escapes needed to be updated. Dr. Crisafulli got a waiver to be able to open as is with the understanding changes will be made.

Should be fire chief not fire marshal. Sean will make change and send to Mr. O'Malley. This should be posted with any statements about looking for architect.

Curriculum: Mr. Boggio presented info from meeting with the teachers. Mr. O'Malley wondered if this was part of what was submitted with the application. He thought this would be good to submit to Molly Kelly. Mr. Boggio thought it would be good to read it over and discuss at the next meeting.

Finance: Have not met yet. There was comment on QZAP. It did not seem to be geared towards high school. Funding would have to be matched. It was also only for renovations not new construction. Maybe that could be rolled in to this project.

5. Status Report Concerning Selection of Architect:

Mr. Boggio contacted Tennant/Wallace Architects, Banwell got the information as well as Oak Point, Warren Street and Dennis Mires. He contacted those to direct them to the website.

Wayne mentioned Frank Marinace was contacted they will submit something.

The ad went out, it was condensed a little due to space. Tuesday, July 19th is when they are asked to come and view the site. Follow up meeting on Wednesday the 20th.

6. HES Building Improvement Committee Member Comments:

Mr. Boggio checked the website. Minutes are still not up. He will contact Debbie once she is back from vacation.

Mr. Fecto wondered when we will contact the state fire marshal. Wayne was concerned with how he will see other issues we have. He does not feel we need him right away. He thought we should contact him later in the fall. Mr. O'Malley wondered the fire marshal might change with elections. Wayne thought no.

Mr. O'Malley had contacted Ms. Webber and she was going to come but she did not make it. He and Wayne thought she would be in our corner.

Mr. Boggio wondered if anyone heard much since the ad went out. No one really had other than one comment to Mr. O'Connor

Mr. O'Malley thought that most people may have seen the ad and figured it was just fire escapes.

Courtney Hodge said Mr. Smith stopped in and she asked about the lot where the house is. He has not sold it in the past because he feels it is land the school should own. He suggested that he wants to maintain the house and two building lots. If zoning was changed he would sell the house lot in addition to the swap. Mr. MacDonell said that would have to be voted on and it would change taxes. It would be complicated because of zoning changes etc.

7. Other

8. Future Meeting Dates: July 19, 2016 and July 20, 2016

9. Future Agenda Items

Put together something for the school board meeting August 17th.

Mr. Lee asked if Mr. Boggio had a score card for architects.

Mr. Boggio said it is on the website. It is several pages. There is a form for an actual score card.

Mr. O'Malley suggested two items for the future. One, update on Molly Kelly report to Mr. Woolridge and Two, Legislative Letter.

10. Adjourn: Motion made and carried 7:43