

**EAST HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
EAST HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL BOARDROOM
35 WHEELBARROW LANE
EAST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06513**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2010
6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mr. Pompano, Mrs. DePalma, Mr. Hennessey,
Mrs. Maisano, Mr. Palladino, Mr. Scalesse and
Mrs. Vineyard

ABSENT: Mrs. Lewis, Business Manager

ARRIVED LATE: Mr. Travaglini, Dir. of Bldgs. & Grounds (6:10 p.m.)
Mrs. Kluth (6:10 p.m.)
Mr. DeNuzzo (6:12 p.m.)

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Serio, Superintendent
Mrs. Forti, Assist. Supt. of Curriculum & Instruction
Mrs. Acquarulo, Director of Pupil Services
Mr. Lathrop, Business Administrator
Mr. Anderson, Principal of EHHS
Mr. Ferraiolo, Director of Adult Education

1. OPEN MEETING

Mr. Pompano called the Buildings & Grounds Subcommittee meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. in the Boardroom at East Haven High School.

2. Exit Strategies for Dodge Avenue

Mr. Serio explained the leases that the Board presently had were the Adult Education lease that expired in June 2011 and the Pathways Program lease which expired in June 2012. With the reconfiguration, they did have one

building that was available, but he did not know what would be the best use of that building. He was sure the landlord would be interested in negotiating if for any reason the Board were to find a different way of doing business or continuing to do business if they so desired. Right now they were on notice. The Adult Education lease was the first to expire in 2011. He had invited Mr. Anderson and Mr. Ferraiolo here this evening to join in the discussion. They would need to look at these items in the 2011-12 budget. Mr. Serio stated they would need to have these items budgeted appropriately and decisions made moving forward when they begin talks with the Town about the budget so they could sustain the quality of the programs as they exist.

The cost of the lease at Pathways was around \$15,000 a month while the cost of the lease for the Adult Education Program was around \$21,000 a month.

Mr. Hennessey asked Mr. Serio to give them a briefing on what the differences were between the Pathways Program and the Adult Education Programs and the interaction with the Children's Center. Mr. Serio explained they were two separate entities. The Adult Education Program was for students to receive the day high school diploma program and it also provided educational courses and opportunities in the evening such as the GED, citizenship classes, and ELL services. This was a 10-year lease. It gave our students in East Haven an alternative site to finish their education in East Haven and feel comfortable doing so. He then explained some of the reasons why students may not feel comfortable in the regular high school setting.

Mr. Ferraiolo explained the different reasons why kids come to them from the regular high school. The Adult Education Program was very successful because they connected with these kids in a way that the high school could not. Mr. Pompano stated he did not believe it was the will of this Board to dismantle this program. The questions has to do to with moving it to the next year while still providing that service without disrupting teaching and learning on any platform and maintain some fiscal responsibility on the Board's part. Mr. Ferraiolo thought that to keep the integrity of the program and keep it moving forward, they had to have their own building with their own space. Everything was expanding.

There was discussion on how many students attended the different programs and the number of rooms needed. There was discussion on the cost of the Adult Education Program and how the Board still ended up paying half of the \$21,000 cost per month. There was the thought of moving the program up to the high school and Mr. Ferraiolo thought it would be a "horror show". There were different ways they disciplined students at the high school and the

structure of the high school did not fit with the students in Adult Ed. He did not feel it would be a good thing for the Adult Ed students to come back to the high school. They left here because they felt they could not function completely as people. Mr. Anderson agreed that coming back to the high school would not serve them well and it would not serve the student body at the high school well either. Adult Ed was not about discipline whereas in high school discipline was a part of learning. He stated it would be a distraction to our program and he thought it would be a distraction to the Adult Ed Program. Mr. Pompano agreed with him.

There was further discussion on the differences between the high school and the Adult Ed Program. There was discussion regarding the possibility of moving it to Hays.

Mr. Pompano asked Mrs. Acquarulo to tell them about the Pathways Program. Mrs. Acquarulo stated it was a Special Ed school. Students were there who had not been successful in receiving special education services in the schools they come from. They come from Branford and other shoreline towns and also East Haven. The Children's Community programs contract with them to run the school. The employees working there were not East Haven school employees. The students all had issues that required small structured environments. They had one social worker at the high school whereas Pathways had two and a half right now. Services were intensive. These students really needed to function as part of another building. One of the reasons they were successful was because of where they were. The grades covered by this program were 6 – 12. There were 26 East Haven students and over 40 students total. Most of the students were high school students.

Mrs. Acquarulo brought up a suggestion she had been thinking about which was the possibility of flip-flopping the leases, if that could be worked out with the landlord. This way Adult Ed could stay at Dodge Avenue and Pathways could be moved to Hays where they had been before. There was some discussion on this possibility and Mr. Serio felt the landlord would welcome any type of negotiation or discussion on the leases rather than having no rent. If the Board wanted to they could advise him to sit and negotiate.

Mr. DeNuzzo asked Mr. Serio if he had any discussion with the landlord about coming up with a new lease at a reduced rate. Mr. Serio stated they had talked about the possibility of a flip flop. He had not engaged in a conversation to any extent. He did not feel empowered to make that kind of a deal. They had sent a letter to him notifying them that once the leases

expired, they would be vacating the buildings. He thought that a reduction in the actual cost would be something they would consider.

Mrs. Kluth asked about the possibility of putting both programs in one school. Mr. Ferraiolo stated they would not want to merge the two.

There was discussion on what renovations would need to be done to Hays in order to house Pathways. To run that building would cost about \$35,000. **There was discussion about using the high school for storage for files. Mr. Pompano stated this was not an item on the agenda this evening.**

Mr. Hennessey stated they were all coming from the angle of leaving Dodge Avenue. What if it made fiscal sense to stay at Dodge Avenue? They don't have to move; let's have Mr. Lathrop dig into it to see what makes financial sense. They outsource everything. They don't have to pay worker's comp or payroll. It might be cheaper. The landlord had a lot of room to change that rent. Mr. Serio stated that tuitions in Mrs. Acquarulo's program could go up and exceed what they were paying for rent if they did not have the Pathways Program.

Mrs. DePalma agreed with Mr. Hennessey. What were they going to save to move anything? What about compensation from the State? If they own the building themselves, how much would they get? Can they go down on the rent? Why did they charge so much to begin with? They can't just save money and throw two programs into a school that should not be together.

Mr. Pompano thought there were a lot of decisions that needed to be made. They needed to move onto Item # 3. There was discussion about having another meeting to discuss the factors and ideas of what they have on their plate and configure it from there to see what direction they needed to go in.

3. Building Needs fro All-Day Kindergarten

Mr. Pompano stated they had some housing and financial obstacles to overcome on this. Mr. Serio stated that Central Office had some discussions and brainstormed about what it would take for them to implement an all-day kindergarten program. One of the things was space in order to make sure they had enough room to house it. They would be going from 7 to 11 or possibly 12 classrooms. They had looked at Overbrook and how tight it is over there and looked into the possibility of portables like those at Ferrara.

Mr. Serio stated they had wanted to discuss this prior to meeting with the School Building Committee and they would want a continuation of these kinds of meetings in a joint fashion to discuss some of their options. Mr. Serio stated that Mr. Travaglino had gotten some preliminary numbers on modulars and what some of that expense would entail. They would also have to calculate, through the budget process, what the cost of all-day K would be. They needed to include the Town in some of these conversations to see if this was the way the Town wanted to go. The Board needs the information to process it and together they could make a decision whether to do it in September. Modular's needed to be structured and wired not just plopped in place.

Mrs. Maisano thought it was important for this Board to get the figures they needed and perhaps weigh the options of keeping Dodge Avenue and using Hays School for full-day kindergarten. There were a lot of options on the table. Mr. Serio stated they needed to have discussions because another phase of leasing the modules would be with the understanding they do a building project of adding a wing on one of these schools and make in permanent.

Mr. DeNuzzo asked how many kindergartners were they projecting for full-time and Mr. Serio responded 250. How many teachers do they have to hire? About 4 or 5. They might get kids to come back to East Haven from the magnet schools if they had all-day kindergarten.

Mrs. Kluth stated she had a big problem with the modular -- she thought they were going backwards and it was also a big cost. Mr. DeNuzzo stated they had to put them someplace. Mrs. Kluth felt if they could not do it, then they could not do it.

Mrs. DePalma stated they needed to meet and hash everything out to determine what was in the best interest of the Town and work towards that. We all know our buildings are deteriorating right before our eyes. They needed goals and objectives. They were all over the place

Mr. DeNuzzo asked if they had a price on a modular. Mr. Travaglino stated on three units at Overbrook School it would cost about \$200,000. This was for an outright purchase which included putting it up and building a door like they had at Ferrara. They could lease/purchase or purchase. At the end of the lease they could purchase it for \$1. Mr. Scalesse asked how long the modular had been at Ferrara and Mr. Travaglino responded since 2001. It had held up pretty well.

Mr. Pompano stated there were huge benefits to having all-day K. Mrs. Kluth could never understand why the Academy started at Grade 3. They have plenty of room and why couldn't they utilize the rooms there. They could start them off with all-day kindergarten.

There was discussion regarding how this had been discussed in length and had received presentations from Mrs. Forti and Mrs. Schmidt. Mrs. Maisano stated there were very few towns that did not have full-day K. She was not in disagreement with having modular units with a plan in the future to progress into something larger. They should revisit this. Mrs. DePalma asked if they went to Overbrook, would they put all-day kindergarten there. Mr. Serio stated they would keep the same K-2 configuration.

Mr. Pompano felt they should enter into discussions with the Town for some Capital Improvement monies. Mr. Serio thought they needed a long-term plan starting with using modular units temporarily with the understanding they would enter into some type of building project to accommodate the reconfiguration. Their schools were not getting any newer. Tonight was a good start on this conversation and they needed to discuss where they wanted to go from here.

There was discussion on running their own Pathways Program and how the Children's Center ran this program.

Mr. Pompano spoke to Mr. Lathrop asking him to come back with the numbers regarding some of the options they had spoken about. Mr. Lathrop asked if he wanted these for the meeting on November 23rd and **Mr. Pompano stated they would need to have another subcommittee meeting on a night that there was no Board meeting. Mr. Serio stated that Mrs. DePalma wanted a goal setting committee so perhaps they could coordinate the two. Goals should be integrated into how they build their budget.**

4. Any other business that might rightfully come before this subcommittee.

There was no other business.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. DeNuzzo and seconded by Mrs. DePalma. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

**MR. RAYMOND POMPARO, CHAIRPERSON
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS SUBCOMMITTEE**