

**EAST HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

**EAST HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL BOARDROOM
35 WHEELBARROW LANE
EAST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06513**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2008
7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mrs. Vitale, Mr. Hammell, Mr. Inglese, Mrs. Padua, Mrs. Vineyard,
Mr. DeNuzzo

ABSENT: Mrs. Geraci-Anastasio
Mr. Serio, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Martorella, Admin. Consultant to the Superintendent
Mr. Travaglino, Director of Buildings & Grounds

ARRIVED LATE: Mr. Finkle (7:06 p.m.) and Mr. Hennessey (7:10 p.m.)

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Meoli, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Acquarulo, Director of Pupil Services
Mr. Rizza, Director of Finance
Mrs. Lewis, Finance Manager

1. OPEN MEETING

Mr. Hammell called the Buildings & Grounds subcommittee meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Discussion of NESDEC Survey

There was discussion on the presentation that was given at the last Board meeting of September 23rd. It was the general consensus that it was a very thorough presentation and the cost was quite reasonable. The Board inquired about the direction the committees would take. Mr. Meoli explained they would have their own committee and work together with NESDEC.

Mr. Finkle arrived at 7:06 p.m.

Mr. Hammell questioned whether they would include even those buildings they were not using such as 200 Tyler Street. Mr. Meoli felt that that was on the top of the list. There was discussion regarding the timeframe and when they would be locked into certain schools. Mr. Rizza explained the timeline and what was involved in the process as far as the roofs and solar panels. He felt that the three or four months it would take for the survey would fit in perfectly with the process for the roofs which would probably start the day after school ended at the Middle School.

Mr. Hennessey arrived at 7:10 p.m.

They were not committed to anything until they actually spent the money. Mr. Inglese stated you are then tied up for 20 years. There was discussion on whether they were serious about looking into this and acting on it after they spend the \$25,000. Mr. Inglese hoped they weren't just going to thank them for their advice and then not do it and just waste money. Mrs. Padua asked if this group would be focusing on facility use from an educational point. Mr. Meoli stated yes. Mr. Hammell asked if it would be also focusing on a cost savings. Mr. Meoli stated yes, without question.

Mr. Hennessey felt it was nonsense. He felt that English language, writing and math had not changed in thousands of years and it did not matter what building you were in. It had done nothing for their SAT scores in this building. There was some conversation on grade alignment and how everyone learns differently and may need to be taught in a learning style that was different. Mr. Hennessey stated that the fundamental building blocks were reading, writing, and math. Mr. Meoli spoke about reading consultants and how their resources currently may be spread thin. They were getting ahead of themselves and it would be the charge of the committee to answer these questions in less than five, six months. They would come together with their committee and what they thought was the best thing for kids and what NESDEC thought was the best way to use their facilities.

There was discussion on whether this was for renovation or consolidation. Mr. DeNuzzo asked why they would renovate now and then consolidate because they had to pay this money back. Mrs. Vitale stated it was about getting more programs in fewer buildings and that fewer buildings would be part of their cost savings. This way they put more money into education. Mr. Meoli stated that these would be conversations they would have and they would come from an educational point of view. There was discussion on the size of Deer Run School vs. East Haven High School and the cost differences in electricity.

Mr. Meoli discussed the cost of doing the survey. They would receive a 20% discount. The original cost was \$31,095 and with the discount it would be \$24,876.

Mr. Finkle asked if the Town was going to pay for the survey. Mrs. Vitale stated that the Board of Education would be paying for it. Mr. Finkle asked where the money was going to come from. Mr. Rizza stated that right now they had a balanced budget. They were currently looking at moving from oil heat to gas and the dollar savings was substantial. They would be looking at bidding electricity again. There was discussion on what accounts the money would come out of. Mr. Rizza spoke about the possibility of Purchase Services or Professional Services. Mr. DeNuzzo asked if they would start a line item and take from different line items. Mr. Rizza said it would probably be a line item under purchase services. Mr. Finkle asked Mrs. Acquarulo if she could do a comparison to last year of the total head count in some areas. One was for the total count of aides and the other was a teacher head count. This included all aides. The length of the study would be four months.

3. Update on School Facilities Committee

Mr. Meoli stated there was a meeting set up for October 10th at 10 a.m. There would be an array of people from the school system. A letter would go out tomorrow morning to the Mayor's office, to the Chairman of the Town Council, the Chairman of the Board of Finance, and the Chairman of the School Building Committee. They could be on the committee or assign a designee. It was important to get everyone in the room and also it was important to reiterate that the focus had to remain on the educational needs of the kids. Whatever they did had to be far reaching into the community.

There was some discussion on whether the committee should be kept larger or smaller and the impact it would have on the progress of the survey. The details would be worked out during the first meeting. Mr. Hammell stated he did not want outside people coming in that were non-educational and interfering with the process and then they get stymied. He felt with a bigger committee this would happen. Mr. Meoli felt they might have to meet every week or two weeks. Mrs. Vitale felt that everyone would look from their own perspective such as the School Building Committee would be only interested in the facilities' construction, etc. Their biggest concern would be to get the public to buy into whatever that wanted. When you include people, there was a better chance of being successful.

Mr. Finkle spoke about head counts vs. square footage. He stated the big thing was the educational piece because of the changing environment of the needs of our kids; that's probably the most important thing. It was important for them to get their piece as quickly as possible to these people. When they start to look at the numbers, they need to know what we are thinking educationally for the future of our kids. The less distraction you have from the educational component was the most important information these people needed.

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

There was no other business discussed.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Inglese and seconded by Mrs. Padua. There were no objections or abstentions. Motion carries. The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

**FRANK HAMMELL for
LISA GERACI-ANASTASIO, CHAIR
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS SUBCOMMITTEE**