

Nashoba Regional Space Task Force Meeting

January 21, 2016

Attendees: Bob Czekanski, Mark Jones, Bill Cleary, Dave LeBlanc, Heather LeBlanc, Lynn Coletti, Maureen Busch (arrived 7:10), Parry Graham (arrived 7:15), Jodi Specht (arrived 7:15)

Because there was no quorum at 7:00, the group decided to make the meeting a work group to work on the draft of the final report.

Update on Enrollment Study. Bill informed the group that the purchase order has been Issued, contract has been executed, NESDEC has been working on the study for about two weeks. He has received a "Needs List" from them, requesting contact info for town planners, real estate people., information on any new charter schools, school choice students going out of district, etc. He will have Aleta post the list so that the task force is aware of what has been requested, and will be getting the information to NESDEC.

Final Report Draft. Dave expressed concern that the report was confusing because the Executive Summary of the document is longer than the main body, and the Appendices are longer than the report. Also, the report is missing some of Parry's explanation about utilization and the scheduling problems as the utilization increases.

Bob asked whether others felt the report was not as compelling because the contents of Appendix A are condensed into a short summary.

Lynn questioned the difference between Appendix A and Appendix B because the first few pages of both are exactly the same. Bob agreed to review those parts and determine whether he had missed a step in his conversion of format of information between the two appendices.

Bob pointed out that he had grouped the issues for wellness and athletics together because there was so much overlap (e.g., locker room issues and the trainer's space stayed under the wellness heading). In addition, he had moved the issues with the Athletic Director's office to the Administrative category.

There was discussion about the need for a power point presentation to go with the report. How much time will a school committee meeting devote to the final report?

Mark noted that he has received comments from members of the community that they find it hard to believe the high school is out of space and/or that the population has grown that much. He feels it would be helpful to demonstrate that the school population has grown. There was discussion about what information is available. Also, several questioned where the 1250 capacity number came from, since the school is already dealing with serious crowding problems despite being below that number.

Dave noted that the introduction to the report states that there are not major safety hazards, but some of the verbiage of some of the issues describe situations as dangerous. Bob agreed that there should be consistency, Dave will help identify specific instances.

Bob noted that Don had requested that the bold-typed paragraph on page 4, which noted that the task force had voted to recommend to the School Committee to file an SOI, be amended to note that the vote was 7-1, not unanimous. Discussion: Several members felt the paragraph was accurate; the task

force did vote in favor of the recommendation. Also, some noted that often, unanimous votes are emphasized, and that there is no assumption of a unanimous vote otherwise.

Mark felt the utilization number (93% vs, 85%) should be emphasized. The group also discussed emphasizing the difficulty of scheduling as the utilization number rises.

Lynn recommended incorporating the SOI criteria into the report. This would support the argument of the need for an SOI and might help make the report more readable.

Parry provided a short presentation on Future Programming and the impact that space constraints have on it. Bob noted that the chart stated what we lack, but does not state what would be needed. The summary should include some description or identification of what would be needed and what it would look like. For example, alternative education would need smaller spaces for smaller groups; dance and R.A.D. need a larger space but not necessarily a “dance studio”.

Some discussion on alternative education and how it differs from what is in place already: the drop-out rate has come down, but the struggling students still need more support to keep them in school.

Heather noted that we had discussed the woods and metals shops, but there is no mention of that space in the final report. Bob recommended deferring how that space should be addressed to the building committee if one is formed. The space itself is probably sufficient but the equipment needs updating and the space could be better organized.

Bob will take the comments and discussion and rework the draft of the final report.

Minutes from January 7 – Parry moved to accept them as amended, Mark seconded the motion. Unanimous.

Adjourn. Parry moved that the meeting be adjourned. Dave seconded. Vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.