

**TOWN COUNCIL/BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORKSHOP MEETING**

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Town Council Chambers

7:05 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL: Present were Mayor Michael Doody, Deputy Mayor Vincent Candelora, Council Members Mary Bigelow, Donald Fucci, David Hultgren, Ashley Joiner, John Lappie and Joanne Wentworth. Also present was Town Manager Karl Kilduff.

Council Member Andrew Esposito was absent.

Also present from the Board of Education were Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Wolfe, Larry Casey, Lisa Gagliardi, Ron Haskins, Cheryl Smith, and Bruce Wentworth

Also present were Curriculum Director Joan Follo, Principal of the North Branford Intermediate School Alan Davis and Assistant Principal Christine Imperato

2. DISCUSSION RE: EDUCATION SPECIFICATIONS FOR POSSIBLE NORTH BRANFORD INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Deputy Mayor Candelora questioned the impact that the education specifications have on the architectural plans that were done and if everything included in the education specs are incorporated into the proposed design.

Town Manager Kilduff confirmed that all the architects had access to the education specs.

Bruce Wentworth reviewed the process that was followed with the education specs, which were developed internally by the administrators, faculty and staff of the middle school. He noted that these plans incorporate the concept of "team" teaching. He also reviewed the process followed by the architect, Moser Pilon, in obtaining the square footage required. He noted that the current space does not fit the educational needs at the middle school.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Wolfe distributed to the Council excerpts which detail the current square footage compared with the square footage which is needed and a listing of the State projects showing new construction projects as well as renovate as new projects. He also

distributed for the Council's review enrollment information provided by the State of Connecticut and indicated that the middle school should be constructed to accommodate 600 students.

Deputy Mayor Candelora was concerned with designing for a particular mode of teaching, in this case "team" teaching, which may change in the future.

Dr. Wolfe spoke on the team teaching concept and felt that this would last for several decades. Mr. Casey also responded to this.

There was considerable discussion on the team teaching concept between Council and Board of Education members.

Deputy Mayor Candelora questioned the impact the proposed structure would have on future staffing needs at the middle school.

Dr. Wolfe responded to this and discussed the levels of personnel required. He confirmed that volunteers are used wherever they can and pointed out that the Kindergarten classes have no aides.

Councilor Lappie questioned the redundancy in the technology space. Dr. Wolfe confirmed that they will relook at this aspect of the plans due to changes in technology.

There was further discussion between Council and Board of Education members on the technology issue and space needs.

Cheryl Smith questioned the next step in this process. Town Manager Kilduff reviewed the procedures to be followed. He noted that this will need to be resubmitted to the State if the Town decides to renovate as new rather than new construction as the State has reviewed and approved an application for the new construction.

Councilor Joiner questioned the affect portable classrooms would have on the students' studies.

Dr. Wolfe noted that a renovate as new project could take from three to four years to complete. It was suggested that the Town contact other towns doing renovate as new project to see what the impacts are.

There was further discussion by all present on the size and cost of new construction versus the renovate as new and the status of this with the State. It is the Board of Education's recommendation to construct new.

The Board of Education will go back and relook at the education specifications.

Both the Town Council and Board of Education will hold another workshop on this issue on Tuesday, March 8, to further discuss this item.

3. DISCUSISON RE: RELATED BUDGETARY AND FIXED COSTS FOR THE SCHOOL SYSTEM

Ron Haskins requested guidance from the Town Council on the fiscal status of the Town in order for the Board of Education to prepare a budget acceptable to the Town Council. He indicated that they would like to have a collaborative effort in working on the budget this year.

Town Manager Kilduff briefly gave an update on the status of the State budget as well as the growth in the Grand List. He noted that utilities and insurance costs contain to rise.

It was suggested and agreed that the Finance Subcommittee of the Town Council meet with the Board of Education's budget committee. This meeting will take place on Monday, February 21st, at 6:00 p.m. at TVES.

4. OTHER PERTINENT ITEMS: None.

5. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Joiner, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosanne Krajewski,
Clerk to the Council