

CROMWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT



CROMWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING

Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 5, 2022
Minutes and Motions

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Rosanna Glynn, Chair at 8:18 p.m.

II. Roll Call

CMS Building Committee

Present: Rosanna Glynn, Chair, Shannon Hughes-Brown (via conference call), Vice Chair, Matt Blanchette, Ken Cleveland, Ken Jackson, Blaise Messinger, John Post. Alternates: Jessica Lamb, Heather Jacobs

Administration

Present: Dr. Macri, Ann Cocchiola, Tommy Litwińczyk

Board of Education Members

Celina Kelleher, Kathryn Russ, Dipti Post, Alan Schumann, Matt Zabroski

CSG and Other Representatives

Present: Karen DePrersia, Chris Cykley (via conference call) - CSG

Town Representatives -

Paula Luna, James Demetriades - Town Council

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve the Agenda made by John Post, seconded by Matt Blanchette. Vote: Unanimous.

IV. Action: Approval of Minutes and Motions - March 30, 2022 meeting

Motion to Approve the Minutes and Motions - March 30, 2022 meeting made by Matt Blanchette, seconded by Ken Jackson. Vote: Unanimous.

V. Public Comments

Jim Vinchetti, 3 Greendale Avenue, questioned about the athletic fields; is there a temporary solution for it? Where are the girls' teams going to play as they will not be able to play at WIS, and will the girls' teams have dugouts like the boys' teams. And is the CMS baseball field being redone. Have not seen a plan to address issues.

Rosanna Glynn stated we are still defining plans with the architect and working out proposal concepts and orientation. There will be a baseball field, how it is oriented might be different, and the soccer field will not be in use for a year and a half. Please bear with us and as soon as it is worked out, we will let everyone know.

VI. New Business

A. Chairperson's Update

Rosanna Glynn stated she had a meeting with Town Manager Tony Salvatore and Finance Director Marianne Sylvester on Friday regarding the Committee's authority of adding and removing items within the project scope and the Ed Spec parameters. We need to keep in mind the budget and will need public approval. Also discussed funding for mailings and surveys, utilizing digital like email, send out through the school, we are not sure if we can do that. A huge chunk of citizens are not in that email distribution. We will approach Marianne to see where that money is being spent and have a conversation with her. Jessica Lamb stated the intent of the survey was to get public opinion and reach everyone in the community to hear their perspective, and there are people in town that do not have access. Either way, it costs money to get out to the community. Rosanna asked if we could find out what the amount was 20 years ago. Rosanna met with the Republican Town Committee last night and generally they were receptive to justifications and need for the project. Rosanna questioned Karen, what type of "warranty" is associated with a brand new building vs. renovate side of building with Option 2. Karen stated it is usually itemized. John asked about the punch list items - Ken Cleveland stated they are one year from substantial completion. Next question, Central Office, why do we need a new Central Office and is there alternate space to save some money. Dr. Macri stated the benefits of being connected, to also be able to be in the pulse and see students and staff. Dr. Macri gave an example of how the Central Office assisted during a power outage at CMS. Three people are stationed in a tight space working with financial pieces, we even do not have a sink in the Central Office, we wash in the bathroom. There is nowhere else to put the Central Office. Michele DiMaruo's office is very small, and having to be compliant with the FBI, meet with new staff and keep important records. Also expelled students use the conference room and then we have no room for meetings. Staff is also housed in other areas because there is no room, it is an unhealthy environment, we need to be open and inviting to the public. Karen stated if we move Central Office, we will lose reimbursement rate, even though it is a separate grant application. Rosanna stated we need to do a closer look on the Ed Specs between now and the next meeting to take a closer look to justify the 3M. Lastly, in regards to the situation regarding the WIS Building Project, where the State sued Cromwell over a million dollars for an error, was it for expanded scope? We should investigate and find out, Rosanna did ask Marianne Sylvester. Shannon found an article stating enrollment projections did not meet the estimates.

VII. Old Business

A. Approval of By-Laws

Motion to Approve By-Laws made by Ken Jackson, seconded by Ken Cleveland. Vote: Unanimous.

VIII. Communications Sub-Committee Report

Shannon Hughes-Brown stated the Communication Sub-Committee has been working very hard and has a goal to reach the entire community. The website is constantly evolving and being updated by Heather. The Communications Plan is in the packet, please review and see if there are other things we

should do. We plan on being at Opening Day for Little League to answer any questions from the community, we have a signup sheet and we do need volunteers. Earlier this week, sent an email for sign up for updates and opt in to the emails. Also included was a Calendar of Events and the last thing is the Open House concept to get invites out. We do need someone to coordinate logistics to help with the middle school, if interested please let her know. Last thing, we met with ECS/WIS PTO, Republican and Democratic Town Committees and the Girl Scouts. We have 1,450 people engagement on Facebook and we sent the first digital email out and 66 people opened it up.

IX. Public Comments

Jim Vinchelitti, President of Cromwell Little League, does not support turf at CMS and would like it at CHS. CHS football champion team almost got their game taken away from them from CIAC. I know there are fields in town that are bad and the Town needs to address that. Start at high school.

Rosanna stated the Board of Education voted to approve the Ed Specs 1,300 square feet. Ken Cleveland said we added \$3-400K to the Budget by doing so. John said the amphitheater is located near the bus loop and may need to be reconfigured. Karen said all site specs can be reconfigured. Dr. Macri stated at the BOE meeting, a discussion was had regarding the highest enrollment increase for auditorium add 400 square feet, we have already scaled down to the best of our ability. I did speak with the Town Manager about the numbers and what the cost will be for taxpayers. If we go above the taxable rate, the extra expenses will go to the citizens. We have to weigh the benefits and risks. Marianne has offered to come to a meeting to run numbers. Discussion was had regarding the CMS auditorium size, statistics, physical space and previous events and rules for a waiver. Karen stated if it is tied to the STEAM academic program and curriculum it may qualify for waiver, we have to state our case. Jessica Lamb asked what the opportunity would be to get funds and is a black box an option to consider. Dr. Macri stated if external, we do charge a fee but if a large number of Cromwell students are involved we do lower and waive fee, but they will be charged custodial fees. James Demetriades, former alumni and member of Town Council, stated when you put on a production, you use every square inch of the stage and auditorium. The program has grown considerably and we now have a robust program at CMS.

Questions going forward; ask architects to do a space plan. When they do cost up, are they doing the 500 seat or 250? Karen will look into it. Jessica asked when they do cost analysis are they going to roll up different options for use, ex. turf field different size of stage. Karen stated it will be itemized.

Chris Cykely stated for seating in the auditorium, the eligibility rate is $\frac{1}{2}$ (50%) of the highest enrollment is what you are allowed for seating. Anything over 50% the seats will be assessed at a limited eligibility formula. Jessica would like an itemized cost breakdown. Cost estimate with baseline of what state would reimburse in comparison options with cost X. Chris stated the reimbursement process does not work that way, the allowable square footage is based on the total project budget. The reimbursement rate is inclusive of total project cost. Jessica would also like to know the waiver process. Ken would also like Tecton to do a space fit for the stage. John asked about the gym, specs are half bleachers, half chairs.

X. Comments, Updates and Announcements from Board Members and Administrators

XI. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn the Regular Meeting of the CMS Building Committee at 9:52 p.m. made by Matt Blanchette, seconded by Ken Jackson. Vote: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hicks
CMS Building Committee Recording Clerk