

SHERMAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT 06784

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FACILITY REPAIR AND RENOVATION - MONDAY APRIL 4, 2022

LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

7:00 PM

The Special Committee on Facility Repair and Renovation meeting of the Sherman Board of Education was called to order by Mr. Vogt at 7:02 PM at The Sherman School.

1. PRESENT

For the Board: Mr. Laughlin, Mr. Vogt, and Mrs. Diotte
Committee Members: Joel Bruzinski, Joe Viola (via phone), Christian Decunha, and David Febbraio
Guests: Don Lowe and Pamela Bonner

2. DISCUSSION

2.1. Discussion and Possible Action(s) to Advance Recommendation(s) Related to the Repair and/or Renovation of the School Facility and Site.

Mr. Vogt started the meeting by discussing a memo provided by Board legal counsel after a review of policy 7100. The memo stated that the committee had been functioning within policy and could continue to do so in the capacity of pre-planning.

Mr. Vogt stated that while continued pre-planning work could be done and architects for pre-planning work could be pursued, the committee had reached consensus that the path forward should be a comprehensive repair and renovation plan for the school, and that with that consensus pre-planning work was no longer required. He recommended that the committee discuss recommendations to the board that a Town Building Committee be requested from the Board of Selectmen for the purposes of effectuating the repairs to the school.

Discussion was had regarding the purpose of a Town Building Committee, which is to oversee architectural design phases for creation of bid documents, cost analysis, execution of the building project, and oversight.

Mr. Viola asked what the liability of the building committee would be. Mr. Laughlin responded that there is no direct liability and all work is technically a function of the Town.

Mr. Vogt asked that the committee consider and vote to adopt 2 recommendations that it would make to the Board of Education. Mr. Vogt moved and Mr. Laughlin Seconded a motion to adopt recommendation number 1.

Recommendation # 1

The Board of Education should accept* the following revised capital project planning goals which inform the formulation of Educational Specifications:

→ Replace Major Infrastructure at End of Useful Life

Replace major infrastructure that has already, or will soon reach the end of useful life such as roofs, windows, doors, playgrounds, and exterior hardscape elements.

→ Adaptively Reuse “K-Wing”

Adaptively reuse and appropriately restore the original 1937 schoolhouse components of the “K-Wing” (closed in 2015 due to environmental health and safety concerns) for non-educational purposes, relocating age appropriate early learning spaces that meet state standards elsewhere within the facility.

→ Modernize Building Systems & Components

Modernize and unify aging building systems such as HVAC, plumbing, electrical, and life safety that are scattered in type and vary in functionality.

→ Enhance Safety & Security

Enhance safety and security by bringing the site and facility to a modern standard, utilizing deterrence by design within the school facility and the overall site ensuring a welcoming yet more secure educational environment.

→ Create Flexible Educational Spaces Adapting to Changing Needs and Enrollment

Provide flexible classroom and learning spaces that adapt to changing educational needs, fluctuations in enrollment, and yearly changes in the size of grade level cohorts ensuring the facility can meet the needs of students within a small population for intervention, enrichment, social/emotional support, among other needs, through creative and multi-purpose use of space.

→ Explore Community Uses and Maintain Facility as Designated Emergency Shelter

Explore the possibility of providing for other community uses before and after school hours inclusive of space for the Sherman Park and Recreation Commission, as well as ensure that a centrally located municipal facility, inclusive of its site and systems are capable of continuous operation during an emergency or weather event.

→ Minimize Disruptions to Educational Environment & Student Learning

Minimize disruptions to student learning and the educational environment completing any required construction and/or repairs without the use of portable classrooms.

The committee voted unanimously to adopt recommendation number 1.

G. Mr. Vogt moved and Mr. Bruzinski seconded that the committee adopt recommendation number 2.

Recommendation # 2

The Board of Education should deem a comprehensive major alteration project of the Sherman School facility and site which effectuates capital project planning goals as both appropriate and necessary, and take the following related actions:

→ Request Formation of a School Building Committee

Request the Board of Selectmen form a School Building Committee that will be charged

with the oversight and independent direction of all approved capital repair project planning and execution within the Sherman School campus inclusive of its facility and site that conforms with applicable, statute, regulation, ordinance, and/or policy. Such a Committee shall be project specific but may be composed of the same members.

→ Formulate, Prepare, and Approve Educational Specifications

Expediently formulate, prepare, and approve Educational Specifications which shall inform the design and development of preliminary and final project plans. Such specifications shall consider a variety of factors, mainly the nature of educational programs to be served and design objectives, inclusive of desired relationships that should be achieved within the various facilities required. Such specifications should also be inclusive of updated enrollment projections, conceptual models, cost estimates, and an analysis of impacts any construction may have to the educational environment.

The committee voted unanimously to adopt recommendation number 2.

Mr. Vogt stated that these recommendations would be brought to the Board at the next meeting. If the board votes to adopt the committee's recommendations then the Special Committee will have completed its work and Chair Berlandi will be asked to disband the Special Committee on Facility Repairs and recommendations. Mr. Vogt and Mr. Laughlin thanked the committee members for all of their work and dedication.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Vogt

Chair, Special Committee on Facility Repair & Renovation
Sherman Board of Education