

1 Joint Facilities Advisory Committee Meeting

2 Wednesday, November 4th, 2020

3 Meeting Minutes- Approved 11 18 2020

4 Attendees Via Webinar:

5 Administrative Team: Adam Steel- Superintendent and Roger Preston- Director of Facilities.

6 Committee Members: Amy Facey- SCSB Member/ JFAC Chair, Shannon Gascoyne, JFAC
7 Vice Chair, Amherst NH, Victoria Parisi, Amherst NH and John D'Angelo- Amherst NH Town
8 Selectman.

9 Meeting Minutes: Danae A. Marotta

10 Public: Lance Whitehead - Lavallee Brensinger Professional Architects, Manchester NH.

11 I. Call to Order

12 **Chair of the Joint Facilities Advisory Committee, Ms. Amy Facey, called the meeting to**
13 **order at 6:04 PM.**

14 She added that this was a great to touch base and have a meeting going forward. She has a few
15 notes to share about what to cover for the ASB meeting. They will also be attending the Mont
16 Vernon School Board meeting as well. She inquired if Superintendent Steel has spoken with
17 Chair, Ms. Sarah Lawrence.

18 Superintendent, Mr. Adam Steel, mentioned that he will be in contact with her on Friday
19 morning.

20 Ms. Facey added that she knows that they are contract negotiations. She has started a Google
21 Sheet to ask questions and would like to populate answers before the meeting. She asked for
22 feedback on the presentation.

23 Ms. Parisi replied that she believes that it went really well. She added that it is important how to
24 convey sticker shock.

25 Ms. Facey agreed.

26 Ms. Parisi mentioned that it seems that the community is not excited. They need to do these
27 things because the students will be there. It is important to explain that at the more formal board
28 meetings.

29 Ms. Facey added that it is a constructive criticism and it is important that they put it front and
30 center.

31 Mr. Whitehead questioned who was the best person to present. In some towns it can be a Board
32 member or a community member.

33 Ms. Facey replied that they will have to ask the boards. She is not sure if the community
34 members are allowed to make the presentation.

35 Ms. Gascoyne remarked that when Mr. Brian Coogan, member of the Committee presented at
36 the Deliberative Session the Moderator was not keen on that idea.

37 Mr. Steel replied that it was a good point.

38 Ms. Facey suggested that they look into that.

39 Mr. Lance Whitehead, Lavallee Brensinger Professional Architects, replied that he is not
40 available for the Mont Vernon meeting but his associate Ms. Anne Ketterer, will be.

41 Ms. Gascoyne discussed that there is a value in discussing the historical aspects. The longer that
42 they put it off the more it costs. She would like to address the financial concerns of the
43 community.

44 Ms. Facey added that she has shared the Google Sheet with the ASB so that they can be
45 prepared.

46 Mr. Whitehead mentioned that he has been responding to emails. He asked if he should be
47 putting them into the Google sheet.

48 Ms. Facey replied that she can add it in.

49 Ms. Parisi noted that they did have higher enrollment numbers in the past and have brought in
50 more Special Education services. They need to figure out how to share that story.

51 Ms. Facey inquired if they should bring in Director of Student Services Ms. Meg Beauchamp to
52 fill the knowledge gap.

53 Mr. Steel replied that they can highlight the number of classrooms that they have dedicated for
54 Special Education Services and the amount of dollars they have saved by bringing it in-house.

55 Ms. Facey asked about a bulleted list.

56 Mr. Steel replied that she has done that presentation in the past.

57 Ms. Gascoyne added that she will add that in the list of reminders.

58 Mr. John D'Angelo, Amherst Town Selectmen, inquired if the school board members are going
59 to be able to go to the voters to ask for funds. In Amherst's case, they will have to ask for
60 teachers as well. They have a credibility with the voters and the school boards have to get the
61 costs under control. He then discussed the high operating costs and capital costs.

62 Ms. Parisi asked for a good show of faith.

63 Mr. D'Angelo replied that it is not for him to decide. It is a serious political problem. He has
64 spoken to a number of voters and they were very displeased.

65 Ms. Gascoyne added that they are volunteers with children in the school and they are trying to
66 work with what they have. She has heard a lot from both sides, but the needs are not going away.
67 They will be spending on them in one way or another.

68 Mr. D'Angelo mentioned that their class sizes are still high and there are people still moving into
69 town. He added that there are a number of items that is not in this group's charter.

70 Mr. Steel inquired about commercial development in Amherst.

71 Mr. D'Angelo replied that the problem is that they do not have sewage and gas. Commercial
72 development has to have a reason to come here and Amherst is not at the top of the list. It is an
73 indirect way to get revenue. He has gone back in the Selectmen's Minutes for the past 40 years
74 and he sees Selectmen discussing that situation. It is a difficult problem and they are in
75 competition with their neighbors.

76 Ms. Parisi added that they have families who want a rural environment.

77 Mr. Whitehead asked if having a level tax base and energy efficient systems is intriguing to
78 taxpayers and families.

79 Mr. D'Angelo suggested that they bring a quantifiable list that they can work on. At some point
80 it will come down to numbers. He has put together a list that they can work on.

81 Ms. Gascoyne added that the families that are attracted only thought about how stellar and
82 exemplary the school system is.

83 Mr. D'Angelo remarked that people do not seem to believe that enrollment will go up. People are
84 not willing to get in front of a problem that is not happening.

85 Ms. Gascoyne mentioned that the problem is there already.

86 Ms. Parisi agreed.

87 Mr. D'Angelo added that if you do not have kids in school or are retired on a fixed income then
88 it is a hard sell.

89 Ms. Facey mentioned that it is something that they can expand upon and provide that to the
90 individual boards.

91 Ms. D'Angelo remarked that it is a piece to the puzzle.

92 Ms. Facey replied that it is up to the boards to put forth.

93 Mr. D'Angelo commented that they still own the problem.

94 Ms. Facey replied that they will support their efforts.

95 Mr. D'Angelo mentioned that they can outsource those efforts.

96 Ms. Facey replied that they were not looking to outsource.

97 She asked if Ms. Gascoyne wanted to discuss the website.

98 Ms. Gascoyne replied that it is still a work in process and there are tabs and drop downs. They
99 are meeting with Mr. Whitehead and Ms. Ketterer for a virtual toolkit. They want to get it right
100 before they put it out to the community.

- 101 Ms. Facey asked how do they want to make revisions to the presentation and presenters.
- 102 Ms. Gascoyne added that the order has worked well, and she is happy to share that with her.
- 103 Ms. Facey asked Mr. Steel if he wanted to create a cost benefit analysis.
- 104 Mr. Steel replied that they have not done energy modeling and does not want to present
105 something incorrect.
- 106 Mr. Whitehead commented that he needs a little more time to get it correct.
- 107 Ms. Gascoyne inquired about the backup option if they do not build a new building. She feels
108 like they need that information.
- 109 Ms. Parisi agreed with Ms. Gascoyne and mentioned that people might want an alternative and
110 want to be informed.
- 111 Mr. Whitehead replied that between the two reports, their report and the Onsite Insite Report
112 they should have a lot figured out. They will need to double check the numbers.
- 113 Ms. Facey asked who will do that and when.
- 114 Mr. Steel replied that he can do that but will just look at when.
- 115 Ms. Gascoyne mentioned that it does not have to be him necessarily.
- 116 Mr. Steel asked for clarification on what they are looking for.
- 117 Ms. Parisi replied what they will spend to maintain the current facilities with the class sizes
118 staying the same.
- 119 Ms. Gascoyne mentioned if the taxpayers decide that they do not want the higher class sizes and
120 want portables.
- 121 Mr. Steel responded that the cost of portables, to buy and install, costs half as much as the
122 permanent solution.
- 123 Mr. Whitehead added that the big number is how much the portables cost and without a bond
124 they will have to do it under their operating budget.
- 125 Ms. Gascoyne added that there 4 portable classrooms at the end of their life.
- 126 Mr. Steel recapped their three questions. 1. If we don't do this what we are going to spend in
127 capital maintenance over the next ten years, with the understanding that the class sizes stay the
128 same. 2. What is the cost for the use of portables if they wanted to hit their class size targets that
129 they have set over the next ten years and 3. What is the cost to replace the portables once they
130 come to the end of life.
- 131 Mr. Whitehead mentioned that they will have to redo their Kick the Can option numbers.
- 132 Ms. Facey thanked the committee.
- 133 Mr. Whitehead commented that he is available to help them with their questions.

134 Ms. Gascoyne asked Mr. Steel if he had any other slides that needed to be adjusted.

135 Mr. D'Angelo commented on the lifespan of the portables. He added that even with the Kick the
136 Can option that will cost money too.

137 Mr. Whitehead mentioned that he has reviewed data and educational value on students in
138 portables noting that it is not the same as a more permanent structure. He will find that data for
139 the committee and share that with them.

140 Mr. Steel commented that they should come up with a plan and have a virtual meeting with their
141 neighbors.

142 Ms. Parisi and Ms. Gascoyne added that they are doing that.

143 Mr. Preston suggested that they provide information at local frequently visited businesses.

144 Ms. Gascoyne mentioned that they should reach out to Mr. Brian Coogan to see if he is available
145 for the individual board meetings.

146 Ms. Facey replied that she will.

147 II. Meeting Adjourned

148 Ms. Facey adjourned the meeting at 7:18 PM.

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