

1 Joint Facilities Advisory Committee Meeting

2 Thursday, December 17th , 2020

3 Meeting Minutes- Approved 01 21 2021

4 Attendees Via Webinar:

5 Administrative Team: Adam Steel- Superintendent

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

9 Meeting Minutes: Danae A. Marotta

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

11 I. Call to Order

12 **Vice-Chair of the Joint Facilities Advisory Committee, Ms. Shannon Gascoyne, called the**
13 **meeting to order at 5:01 PM.**

14 II. Minutes Approval

15 **Ms. Parisi motioned to approve the Draft Minutes from 11 18 2020. Ms. Gruzdien seconded**
16 **the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.**

17 III. School Board Updates

18 Ms. Gruzdien added that the Amherst School Board had a discussion with the potential issues
19 with the bond. They have decided to move forward and their work with JFAC should continue.

20 Mr. Pim Grondstra commented that the Souhegan Cooperative School Board will have to come
21 to a decision and there are several options on the floor. He has talked with Ms. Grund and she
22 has offered different suggestions.

23 Ms. Parisi mentioned that the Souhegan 2,0 Subcommittee had presented is here to share an
24 update they presented at the SCSB meeting and the way that they had presented to them was to
25 give them some options. That was their role to give options and it is the Board's decision around
26 the timing scope and how to fund.

27 Each of the three projects were given three tiers, the Main Entrance \$250k, Locker Rooms \$75k,
28 and the Science Labs (need time to be looked at, if immediate to look at just one in the Annex).

29 All of the Science Labs are apart of the larger scope. They have answered questions from the
30 SAFC.

31 Ms. Gascoyne added that she has watched that meeting and gave her support.

32 IV. PR Subcommittee

33 She remarked that PR Sub-Committee had met earlier this afternoon. They are in the phase of
34 weekly check-ins. The website is almost ready for a self-launch and they will be adding more

35 materials to the site. Before it goes live, they will send the Committee the website link. Mr.
36 Whitehead has some updated conceptual designs. They have broken up into some subgroups
37 within their group. They have people working on mailers and flyers.

38 She asked for questions.

39 Ms. Gruzdien inquired if there was funding for mailers.

40 Superintendent, Mr. Adam Steel, clarified that they have to be extremely careful about using the
41 tax dollars for mailers.

42 Ms. Gascoyne added that the website is being built by a volunteer in town and is not using
43 taxpayer dollars.

44 Ms. Gruzdien asked if they can reach out to the PTA or perhaps a private donation.

45 Mr. Steel replied, yes to both.

46 Ms. Gruzdien questioned if it can come from the JFAC directly.

47 Mr. Steel replied, no. The JFAC is a subcommittee of the SAU Board. It would be best if the
48 JFAC does not do it directly, representatives of the JFAC can write something on their own. The
49 voters guide is a good example.

50 Ms. Gruzdien inquired if the JFAC can put something in the voters' guide.

51 Mr. Steel replied, yes.

52 Mr. Whitehead added that he can share what have other communities have done.

53 Ms. Eastland noted that you can get on the DPW Sign Board and they can access people that
54 way.

55 Ms. Ludt asked about signage.

56 Ms. Gascoyne replied that the last year the PTA has supported the ASD budget. It is ok to inform
57 community groups of their work and if they support them that would be ok.

58 Ms. Ludt commented that there was a previous group that was in support of building the Annex.

59 Ms. Gascoyne replied that they can recommend community members to go vote and here are the
60 reasons why.

61 Ms. Gruzdien asked Mr. Whitehead asked if he had any experience with the Bond Counsel and if
62 they have ever turned it down.

63 Mr. Whitehead replied that he has been apart of several and has never had one get rejected.

64 Mr. Steel commented that Municipal Bonds are highly regulated by the SEC and the benefit is
65 that they are tax free. Bonds are sold on a trading market and there are several legal protections.
66 It hinges on a lawyer that specializes in the sale of bonds and their opinion of the process of the
67 sale of the bonds. SAU #39 Business Administrator, Ms. Michele Croteau, has a very detailed
68 list regarding the process, which is RSA 33 Municipal Finance Law. If they do not follow the

69 process safely the bond counsel cannot give a clean opinion. The reason there is a question this is
70 year is due to the potential changes to the Public Hearing and potential scrutiny. It may affect the
71 Bond Hearing and Deliberative Session.

72 Ms. Gascoyne asked if he was aware of other bonds in the State.

73 Mr. Whitehead replied that Hudson is considering a bond and it is on their next school board
74 agenda.

75 Ms. Grund inquired about the size of the bond.

76 Mr. Steel replied that with the larger bonds and work on behalf to sell the bonds.

77 Ms. Gascoyne asked if the Public Hearings are still up in the air.

78 Mr. Steel replied that there is still another meeting that is scheduled for tomorrow. It is possible
79 that they because there is a bond hearing they might have to hold a in person Deliberative
80 Session.

81 Ms. Facey noted that SAU #39 Facilities Director, Mr. Roger Preston, has put together a
82 document with a 10 Year Project Plan.

83 Mr. Preston shared his screen. He discussed that they are pulling in the budget at the top and
84 there is a note for the \$75k Locker Rooms to be placed in the proposed operating budget. The
85 Turf Field replacement is slated for FY 27. This is a working document and he used the Onsite
86 Insight Report. This document pulls everything together. He appreciated Ms. Croteau's
87 feedback.

88 Ms. Facey added that they want to give Principal of SHS, Mr. Mike Berry, sufficient time.

89 Ms. Parisi commented that the document looks great. The Souhegan 2.0 amount of \$35m seems
90 like it took on a life of its own. That spending is higher than it needs to be.

91 Ms. Facey replied that it would be helpful for Principal Berry to review and refine.

92 She asked for other questions or comments. It will be helpful for their board meeting later on
93 tonight.

94 Ms. Gascoyne asked Mr. Whitehead if they can look into the designs. She inquired about the
95 sequence.

96 Mr. Whitehead added that with "pre-bond" they are in a conceptual phase. After they go to bond,
97 they have a 9-month process of further design and refinement. The intent is for follow through.
98 They will look at codes and have a building committee. If you look at other phases from other
99 communities you will see the same concept up until bid day, because changes cost more money.
100 There are a lot of decisions to be made. They have updated concepts.

101 Overall the plan is strikingly similar. They are going to have Concrete Masonry Units; they are
102 cost efficient and durable. There are looking where would those changes be and breaking the
103 scale down. They did not want to have it too large for the students. They have large panes of
104 glass and there is modest bus overlap.

105 That is where they are at now.

106 Ms. Gruzdien inquired about the vegetation on the property.

107 Mr. Whitehead responded that the renderings are showing small trees. It is not a good use of
108 taxpayer dollars to buy mature trees.

109 Ms. Ludt gave her support noting that it has a more residential.

110 Mr. Preston asked if they can they do a rendering with the roof top units.

111 Mr. Whitehead replied that he wants to avoid having the mechanical units seen from the front.

112 Mr. Bowkett inquired if they could do the water testing before.

113 Mr. Whitehead replied that they have to do that after bond.

114 Ms. Facey mentioned that they still have meetings on the books.

115 V. Meeting Adjourned

116 **Ms. Facey adjourned the meeting at 5:45PM**

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