



**TOWN OF ROCKY HILL
FACILITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES/MOTIONS**

In order to comply with Connecticut General Statutes regarding minutes of meetings, the following will be used to record information during all public meetings that take place. An original must be submitted to the Town Clerk of Rocky Hill within 48 hours of the meeting being adjourned. Motions should be complete, showing the maker and second of the motion as well as how each member voted. Unanimous votes may be listed as unanimous.

NAME OF PUBLIC BOARD OR COMMISSION	Board of Education Facilities Committee
DATE MEETING AGENDA POSTED	February 12, 2010 (Revised Agenda was posted February 18, 2010)
LOCATION	Training/Conference Room
DATE OF MEETING	February 22, 2010
TIME MEETING STARTED	7:05 p.m.
PERSON PREPARING MEETING MINUTES	Jo-Anne Booth, Recording Secretary
VERBATIM NOTES TAKEN	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
AUDIO, VIDEO OR LIVE TRANSMISSION OF MEETING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

MEMBERS PRESENT AT MEETING

1. Rene (Skip) Rivard, Chairman	2. Brian Dillon
3. Maria Mennella	4. Frank Morse
5. William MacDonald, Ex-Officio Member (Chairman of Bd. of Ed.)	6. Also present: Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Villar
7. Finance Director Frank Connolly (Entered at 7:12 p.m.)	8. Edward (Alex) Silva (Bd. of Ed.)
9. Mike Sorano (Friar Associates)	10. Ken Biega (O & G Industries, Inc.)
11. Councilor Phil Sylvestro	12. Curt Clemens (Resident of RH)
13. Paul Martell (Friar Associates)	14.

NUMBER REQUIRED FOR QUORUM 3 QUORUM PRESENT Yes No

TEXT MOTIONS AND RESULTS VOTES

1st MOTION Passed Failed Tabled

Moved by Frank Morse, seconded by Edward (Alex) Silva, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

LINK TO WORKING NOTES (will be attached if available)

ACTION

CORRECTION(S) (will be attached if available)

TIME MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:20 p.m.

TIME DELIVERED TO TOWN CLERK: _____.

Town of Rocky Hill
Board of Education
Facilities Committee Meeting Working Notes
February 22, 2010

A Facilities Committee meeting of the Rocky Hill Board of Education was held on Monday, February 22, 2010 in the training /conference room. Chairman Rene (Skip) Rivard called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were: Brian Dillon, Maria Mennella, Frank Morse and William MacDonald (Ex-Officio Member) (Chairman of Bd. of Ed.). Also present were: Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Villar, Finance Director Frank Connolly (Entered at 7:12 p.m.), Edward (Alex) Silva (Bd. of Ed.), Councilor Phil Sylvestro, Ken Biega (O & G Industries, Inc.), Mike Sorano (Friar Associates), Paul Martell (Friar Associates) and Curt Clemens (Resident of Rocky Hill).

1. Discussion and Recommendation of Concepts for School Referendum

Mr. Sorano said this was the next step after the direction and the critiques that were given at the last meeting of this Committee. He passed out a new packet to everyone with regards to this. This was a copy of the PowerPoint presentation he was giving this evening.

They are down to one enrollment projection which is official. Mr. Sorano went over the enrollment projection that they used in this study. He showed how the schools were designed based on the number of classrooms. Mr. Morse asked Mr. Sorano if they had to add a student here and there, if they could do it in this scenario. Mr. Sorano said yes.

Mr. Sorano went over the guideline for renovate as new. This has to be met in order to qualify a building to get full reimbursement under the state guideline.

Mr. Sorano went over the long range plan. For Stevens School, the projected enrollment is zero. This building would be turned over to the town. For West Hill School, there would be five hundred and eighty-seven students. This would be for Pre-K through Grade Five. This would require a 5,700 square foot addition and there will be a general reprogramming of this building based on the ed specs. This will be renovate as new and most of the work that is done will become eligible for grant reimbursement.

For Moser School, the projected enrollment is five hundred and eight-eight students. This would be for Pre-K through Grade Five. The existing school would be demolished and a new school would be constructed on the existing site. New parking and new play areas would be provided.

For Griswold Middle School, there would be no work at this time under this plan.

For Rocky Hill High School, the projected enrollment is eight hundred and twenty-five students. This will be for Grade Nine through Grade Twelve. This will be renovate as new or it will have additions and renovations.

Chairman Rivard confirmed with Mr. Sorano that this was the same data they have already received and that they were just reviewing it. Mr. Sorano said yes.

Mr. Sorano referred to the existing West Hill School. He showed the general improvements that they would be proposing under this. Cost estimates for this were provided as well. He showed the existing program as it currently lies out in the school and he showed the proposed layout of this building which will meet the ed spec.

Mr. Clemens asked if Moser School is the same scale as West Hill School in terms of when they are visually looking at the drawing because the kitchen and cafeteria look so much larger for West Hill School compared to what is being shown for Moser School. Mr. Sorano said these are not the same scale because they are in PDF formats but he will endeavor to do this in the future.

Councilor Sylvestro asked what the current student population is at West Hill School. He was told that it is approximately at six hundred. Mr. Clemens asked if this is down slightly from last year. Superintendent Dr. Villar said the enrollment projections are basically flat.

Councilor Sylvestro said they have an addition being proposed for West Hill School for a student population that is going to be no more or no less than there is currently. He asked why this is being proposed. Superintendent Dr. Villar said the present West Hill School is overcrowded. Mr. MacDonald gave an example of students having music classes in the closet. He said this is one example of many as to why additional space is needed in that school. Superintendent Dr. Villar said the big change in this plan from the previous plan is that there isn't a reorganization of the instruction area. He thought that had been negatively received by the general population. The heavy work being proposed is for the administrative suite and this is all based on meeting ADA requirements which have to be met if this is going to be renovated as new.

Mr. Sorano said the State Department of Education Space Standards are a little light to deliver program as most Board of Educations and towns have adopted. He explained that the population is for a little less than there currently is at West Hill School and it is required to have more space added. This points them in the direction that this school is overcrowded.

Mr. Biega went over the cost estimates for the additions and renovations to this project. The big difference is looking at light, medium and heavy renovations. Eight modular classrooms will be carried for eighteen months. This will give swing space and allow people to get in there with fewer disruptions to the students. Superintendent Dr. Villar referred to the cost per square foot of \$207 for heavy renovation, \$149 for medium renovation and \$129 for light renovation. This is significantly less than what had been in the previous referendum. Mr. MacDonald said the cost for the eight modular classrooms seems expensive and he asked if this is because the duration of use for them is so short. Mr. Biega said this cost is for the duration of the use of them as well as for the setting up of them. These have to be ADA accessible, etc. They will reduce the number of these if

they are able to. Mr. Silva asked where these would go on the West Hill site and Mr. Biega showed where.

Mr. Clemens asked what the timing is with regards to this and he asked if things would be done simultaneously. Mr. Biega said things would be done simultaneously. They haven't gotten into detail about the construction yet really. If this is approved by June 30, 2010 then they will get into the cycle for funding for next year. Construction wouldn't be started until 2011. An Architect would have to be authorized to proceed with the documents. There is always concern as to whether state funding is going to be available. Hopefully this will be available in May or June of 2011 and then they would be ready to go out to bid because the drawings would be all done. They can always take the drawings and put them on the shelf if something is delayed. They would start construction in the summer of 2011 if everything goes right. It will probably take twenty-four months for them to do this project. He explained that the students would stay where they are except that they will be working around the students at West Hill School because they will be in the renovation project.

Mr. Clemens asked if they have given any thought at all to closing Moser School, moving the children from Moser School, scrambling around a bit including getting modulars if they are needed and building a new Moser School. They could then shift students out of Stevens School or West Hill School temporarily and do the other school. He thinks by doing it this way that they would save a lot of money on the modulars. He doesn't think they are looking at huge costs. He thinks by doing it this way that it would be less disruptive and a ton of money would be saved. Chairman Rivard thought it was premature to go there at this point. Mr. Clemens said they are talking about \$700,000. Mr. Dillon said one of the problems with this is they would end up paying additional construction manager fees because they aren't going to have one project going on at once. To have both projects going on at once, they are going to pay in other areas for this. Mr. Sorano referred to escalation. Mr. Dillon said escalation is going to be built in. Mr. Clemens said it will if they are going to have the escalation. Mr. Sorano said they will weigh the escalation against the cost of temporary space. Mr. Biega said they can look at these options and that they are only carrying 2.5% of escalation per year which isn't much. If everything stays as it is then he doesn't see a real spike but eventually when things start turning around then numbers, etc. will start going up.

Mr. Morse thinks they have to look at the consideration that there is the possibility that the young students could be uprooted in the early stages of their education at least two times and maybe three times. Mr. Clemens thinks that the students will adapt a lot better than the staff will.

Mr. Dillon explained that the modulars are just a placeholder right now. They have to see how this plays out.

Finance Director Connolly asked when they anticipate the state approval if everything is done by June 30, 2010 and they file with the state. Mr. Biega said what has happened in the past is that this has been approved by June or July of the following year. Last year,

the state funds weren't available until October because that was when the budget was approved.

Finance Director Connolly said after this is approved then they would go out to bid because they can't do that until the state gives them the approval. Mr. Biega said they could go out to bid but the funds won't be there. The state will review all of the documents and approve them. They are asking the taxpayers to approve the entire amount when they go for the funding approval on the referendum. Finance Director Connolly said they can't go out to bid with the legal notice until they have the letter from the state which approves the project. Mr. Biega said they will get this from BSF. He explained that they would be going at their own risk to proceed. They can bid but they will just hold the bid dates for one hundred and twenty days or until state funding becomes available. Finance Director Connolly said they can't advertise for a construction bid prior to the letter of approval coming in if the state approves the bid in June or July of 2011. Mr. Biega said this was correct. Finance Director Connolly said they could go out to bid in July 2011 and the bidding process will take approximately three months. Mr. Biega said the bidding process will take approximately four weeks. He referred to the awarding of the bids and he said they would look at the early packages of what they need to move on quickly. This would be for the structural steel and concrete, etc. They will still be doing the other bid package reviews as construction is being started. Mr. Biega said they will have the approval from the state prior to June 2011 if everything goes right. Finance Director Connolly said this is key because they can't bid until they have the approval letter in hand. Mr. Biega said hopefully the state has approved the budget and the funds are there, etc. by the time they are opening bids. Finance Director Connolly said in their best case scenario that they will be ready to start with the shovel in the ground in September or October 2011. Mr. Biega said they will want to pick up whatever summertime they can when the students aren't there so that areas can be fenced off, etc. They may have the opportunity to get this early site package going earlier. Different steps can be taken to move the project along.

Mr. Silva asked if the approval letter is contingent upon the budget passing and he mentioned that they are going to be on the heels of the next biannual budget. Mr. Biega said they can get the letter to go out to bid but they just won't have the funds from Hartford. Mr. Dillon said they can just wait. Superintendent Dr. Villar said there is really nothing they can do about this. Mr. Dillon said towns have gone forward but they just waited on getting the approval. Superintendent Dr. Villar said the state actually paid the interest to those towns. Mr. Dillon said towns were going forward and it was just the question of knowing that the money was actually there. Superintendent Dr. Villar said the state paid a lot of money in interest so it clearly recognized the importance of taking care of all of the towns in that situation.

Councilor Sylvestro asked if they face a risk of exceeding the bond amount if a few bids are awarded early (i.e. for steel and concrete, etc.) with the idea of awarding other bids later. Mr. Beiga said no and he explained why.

Mr. Biega referred back to this renovate as new project and he said the estimated net cost to Rocky Hill would be \$13,540,000. Reimbursement is much higher so they can get as much back as they can from the state because it is a renovate as new project. Mr. Sorano said this is for West Hill School. Superintendent Dr. Villar said this would take care of issues like the proposed expenditures such as \$15,000 for re-pointing West Hill School. Mr. Sorano said the whole concept of renovate as new picks up what normally would be done in maintenance. This is only paid for in renovate as new projects and not in alteration projects.

Mr. Sorano referred to Moser School. This would have the same ed spec programmatically as the other elementary school but the ed specs will look different because this will be constructed as a new school and the West Hill School ed spec will have a lot of information in it on what the existing systems are, etc. Mr. Sorano referred back to Moser School. He went over the scope of work for this again. The size of this building will be 73,696 square feet and this will give them the full grant allowance. Superintendent Dr. Villar recalled in the first referendum that this building was a little bit more. He was told that it was bigger. He said this shows that they are not going to be overbuilding this school now.

Mr. Dillon confirmed that they worked out the programmatic possibilities of all day kindergarten. They would have to revise the ed spec but the space would be there. Mr. Sorano said that was correct.

Mr. Clemens said 4,000 extra square feet are being put on this building. He thinks this is a great idea in concept in case they do go to all day kindergarten and he explained more. Mr. Dillon said they are meeting the ed spec currently but they would have to revise this if they go to all day kindergarten because they are undersized right now. Superintendent Dr. Villar said the neighboring communities overbuilt their schools by inflating the enrollment projection. Their numbers didn't match the size of the school. This district is not in that situation because the ed spec they are using is based off of NESDEC's latest projection which basically shows flat growth. They are still under the state's square footage requirement. Mr. Clemens explained what his concern is.

Mr. Sorano said there are little things to "massage out" and one of the discussions had been how big the gym is. Mr. MacDonald said they only have one high school gym in the town that is playable. He thinks they would have to look at what the incremental cost would be of making the gym large enough. There are boys' basketball teams, girls' basketball teams as well as Parks and Recreation basketball. They don't have spaces for the teams at the high school level. Superintendent Dr. Villar said this might be cheaper than trying to have this built offsite somewhere else. Mr. Dillon referred to Stevens School and said that is an opportunity for a larger gym that the town can keep as an auxiliary facility.

Mr. Sorano said the state reimbursement size was applied to this building. He said it probably isn't a bad idea to build to the size but they just have to make sure they match it

up. For the older buildings, they were built a lot bigger so modern programs can be squeezed into them. They are building at a tight ratio now.

Mr. Dillon said people are very interested in all day kindergarten. The space for this can be there but it would take reconfiguration of the interior and a revision to their ed spec to incorporate this. Superintendent Dr. Villar said the building is designed with this in mind. Mr. Sorano explained about an elementary school they just completed in Southington, CT.

Mr. Sorano showed everyone the Moser School site. This is expandable but he is still working on the HELCO/CL & P right-of-way there which shows up on some of the public records. He will have any reconfiguration of the floor plan worked out for them and the floor plan will be the ed spec.

Mr. Biega went over the financial summary for Moser School. This will be a geothermal project. He explained where they are looking to have the wells put and what type of geothermal system this will be. There are three elementary schools in Waterford that have been completed that have this. He spoke about the phasing operation for this if a building was to be constructed in that location. The biggest concern is the fields. They have to figure on a year after the grass is planted before they can start using them.

The project costs for this are roughly \$29,000,000. The estimated cost to Rocky Hill would be \$17,673,000. Superintendent Dr. Villar asked if there would be immediate savings in the cost of this building if they suddenly lost their desire to be green. Mr. Biega referred to the Marine Science Magnet School in Groton and he mentioned that he is bidding that right now. This is being bid as a geothermal add alternate. The contractors were told to bid a conventional system and to also give a price to have geothermal done. This will be a beautiful case study.

Mr. Biega explained what the biggest upcharge would be to do a geothermal system but if they are getting back 44% from the state then they are down to roughly \$400,000. The payback can be ten years if they are saving \$30,000 to \$40,000 per year in fossil fuel. This is if this is at \$2.00 per gallon. There is a viable option for photovoltaic if they can get some grants. He told them that their biggest cost will be the electric cost.

Mr. Dillon referred to the HELCO easement. This has been abandoned as part of the golf course in Cromwell so he didn't think HELCO had any interest in using this. Mr. Sorano said in the worst case scenario it would just be the changing of the design a little bit.

Mr. Sorano went over the summary for the Moser School and West Hill School project. The total cost to the town would be \$31,200,000. The overall project cost is \$52,300,000.

Mr. Sorano referred to the Secondary School Project. They will get 95% of their money because the high school will be slightly overbuilt. He showed where the new team locker rooms will be. The existing locker rooms will be taken off of the building and turned into

science space. Those are the major programming moves with this construction project. There are some parking issues that were addressed as well. Superintendent Dr. Villar asked if this includes the renovation required to take the existing science labs offline. Mr. Sorano said there is light renovation for that and he referred to the building of the new ones. Superintendent Dr. Villar said that will be a lot more complicated.

Councilor Sylvestro asked them if they reconsidered repaving the parking lots in the front of this building. Mr. Biega said yes and they did carry money if this is done as renovate as new. Mr. MacDonald asked if the front stairs will be done and Mr. Biega said they will be.

Councilor Sylvestro asked if this will be a renovate as new project also. Mr. Morse said the scenario that was being shown presently wasn't. They are looking at two different ones. Mr. Sorano said they will be presenting two different projects. They did two studies. One of the studies was an alterations and additions one. This was very similar to what had been presented at the referendum but it doesn't have the auxiliary gym on it. This was compared to a full renovation project. He explained what the first cost estimate was for. This would be a \$28,000,000 project and the net cost to Rocky Hill would be \$26,000,000,

Mr. Sorano said they did a scope of work for this building to be done as renovate as new. Mr. Biega said the amount of work that will be done on this and the overall renovation will go up tremendously. The construction cost is at \$26,000,000. There are fees for other things like furniture and technology, etc. The project costs come to approximately \$40,000,000 but they will be getting a lot more money back from the state because this will be a renovate as new project so that is why the cost to this town will be \$26,900,000.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said there had been a question at the last meeting of this Committee with regards to the timing for the renovate as new. The application of both the elementary project and the secondary project can be made in one referendum. They will want to work with their bond counsel with regards to wording this properly. Mr. Dillon said they want to do one solid and comprehensive school plan. Mr. Sorano recommended once the language gets written by the bond counsel that this gets sent to Mr. David Wedge (State Department of Education) so he understands what they are trying to do exactly.

Councilor Sylvestro asked if they could mention the things that will be done as renovate as new that wouldn't be done in the renovation plan. Mr. Sorano mentioned what would be done (i.e. new ceilings, new floors, parking lots, etc.). Mr. Biega said everything has to be brought up to a life of twenty years.

Mr. Biega said Clean Energy has a grant for geothermal wells right now. They also have talked about looking at a cogeneration plant for the high school. There are no grants for this right now. If a grant becomes available then they are going to go after it to try to save the taxpayers money.

Superintendent Dr. Villar told everyone that it seemed like they were heading towards a consensus or that they even have reached a consensus with regards to the elementary piece of this project. He said it would be good to hear if they had a consensus for renovate as new or for minor improvements. They have to make sure this is where they are going so that they can give some direction to Mr. Sorano and communicate this direction ultimately to the Town Council. If they want to have this referendum in the spring then they are running out of time.

Councilor Sylvestro asked if it is the Board of Education's intent to do renovate as new, if they are going to go for the whole "enchilada" at once for West Hill School, Moser School and Rocky Hill High School. Mr. Dillon said yes. Chairman Rivard said the high school renovation wouldn't come right away and Mr. MacDonald said that would be phased in. Mr. Dillon said there would be one comprehensive school plan to be brought to the Town Council. Mr. MacDonald told Councilor Sylvestro that the Town Council would decide how many questions there will be just like they did the last time. Mr. MacDonald thinks the desire of the Board of Education is that they want an all inclusive renovation of the school physical plan. There are some run rate savings they will have by going to two elementary schools versus three elementary schools. He said they have asked Superintendent Dr. Villar to quantify this and this should be a substantial savings.

Councilor Sylvestro said they have one administrator at each of the two elementary schools and he asked if this would continue. Superintendent Dr. Villar said the plan they have discussed is to stay with a principal at each of the schools that has the five hundred and eighty students. He referred to how Finance Director Connolly had shared some numbers at the last meeting with regards to the elimination of FTEs due to the shutting down of one of the three buildings they are operating currently. Superintendent Dr. Villar asked Finance Director Connolly how many millions of dollars this was over a period of time. Finance Director Connolly said the educational costs alone were a minimum of \$100,000 per year. They also had looked at some savings with regards to maintenance cost by going to two schools from three schools. This would be \$150,000 per year and this would be \$5,000,000 in operation costs alone over the twenty year life of a bond. Mr. MacDonald said this is with a zero rate of inflation. Finance Director Connolly said when they looked at FTEs that they didn't look at teachers but they looked at support staff. with regards to what could be cut back on if they went from three elementary schools to two elementary schools. Councilor Sylvestro asked if they are going to look at classroom teachers. Superintendent Dr. Villar said this is a very conservative look. There is a good potential for savings with regards to teachers and he explained more. He said there could be additional savings.

Mr. Morse asked about swing space for when the high school would be renovated. He didn't see any modular classrooms there and he asked how this construction would be done without swing space. Mr. Biega said this would be done as a phased operation. The new classrooms would be built first and these would be used as swing space. Mr. Morse asked if the new classrooms aren't going to be outfitted as labs. Mr. Biega said yes but he said these can still be used as general classrooms. Mr. Sorano said the sprinklers and the ductwork will be a difficult part of this. Mr. Biega said in the past that

a lot of this work has been done at night. All of the electrical work for Stevens School had been done at night.

Mr. Silva asked about the portables that are already at the high school. Mr. Biega thinks they will probably get rid of those after this work.

Mr. Biega asked if the teachers presently have their own rooms that they stay in. Mr. MacDonald said not all of the teachers have their own rooms that they stay in. They have teachers who have their materials on a cart and they go to whatever room is available. Superintendent Dr. Villar said they would have to work with the principal. The schedule would have to be looked at because different areas are being used right now for study halls. He explained more. Mr. MacDonald said there might even be curriculum changes by then that will free up currently used space for programs that are no longer going to be offered.

Mr. Clemens told Superintendent Dr. Villar that he noticed the elementary enrollment projections dropped approximately 8% from the last time they were out there. Mr. Clemens was curious as to what was bringing this down because he thought they had been too high the last time. Superintendent Dr. Villar said this is contracted out to NESDEC. That organization does enrollment projections throughout New England. He explained more. Councilor Sylvestro said the third set of numbers they had done have been very close. Superintendent Dr. Villar said NESDEC will send new enrollment projections next year. Chairman Rivard said there is no way to factor in the fact that now Rocky Hill will have three flagship schools. This will be an attraction to Rocky Hill and people will want to move into the area because of the school system. Superintendent Dr. Villar said sometimes too that people elect not to go to magnet schools or parochial schools. In Meriden, every time they rebuilt a building then public school enrollment went back up and parochial school enrollment dropped. In Rocky Hill, there aren't that many children who go to parochial elementary schools.

Superintendent Dr. Villar referred to the strength of what is being proposed and he said Rocky Hill will have four perfectly wonderful educational facilities within four years. Griswold Middle School is probably the best building they have.

Chairman Rivard confirmed that the step from here is they will bring this back to the full Board of Education for a special meeting once they reach consensus. Superintendent Dr. Villar suggested that they do this fast. They can take a vote as to what the Board of Education is recommending and then communicate that to the Town Council or the Joint Facilities Committee. Mr. Silva asked if they are going to vote on a direction. Mr. MacDonald said they will have to move the plan.

Chairman Rivard asked if there was any other discussion at this point. Finance Director Connolly said there is a number built into the whole package for the demolition of Stevens School. This would actually be a Town Council decision. Councilor Sylvestro said he saw that. He said there are thoughts already as to how to use this building.

Chairman Rivard asked if there was any other discussion at this point on the plan. Mr. MacDonald said a special meeting of the Board of Education will be called. He will work with Superintendent Dr. Villar on this and he would like to have this as soon as possible which would be early next week. Mr. MacDonald asked Councilor Sylvestro if based on this, it would be shipped over to the Joint Facilities Committee. Councilor Sylvestro told Mr. MacDonald to talk to Councilor Moriarty. Councilor Sylvestro thinks this will go to the Joint Facilities Committee. He said this will be on the Town Council agenda and Mayor Tony LaRosa might even want to call a special meeting for this because of the “drop dead” date in June.

Mr. MacDonald told Superintendent Dr. Villar that they will work together tomorrow to come up with a date for a special meeting of the Board of Education. Chairman Rivard asked if public hearings will come from the Board of Education’s request. Superintendent Dr. Villar said these will come through the Town Council. Mr. MacDonald said for the last go around of this that the Town Council held two public hearings. Councilor Sylvestro told the Board of Education members that they will be at these in order to answer all of the educational pieces to this and the Town Council will deal with the financial questions.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said his aspiration is that the Town Council sees this plan, likes this plan and supports this plan because it takes a whole community to see the importance of this work in order to sell it. He told everyone that they need to work as a group with the Town Manager and the Town Council. They need to make sure that what they put forth is good for Rocky Hill and that it passes.

Mr. MacDonald told Mr. Clemens that the Rocky Hill Chamber of Commerce didn’t support the plan the last time. Mr. MacDonald asked Mr. Clemens if there was anything he saw in this plan that they should think about that would help to gain the support of the Rocky Hill Chamber of Commerce before they move forward with this. Mr. Clemens said there were a few minor things in the plan that he doesn’t like but he supports it 95%. He wants to see the tax impact and he said the net tax impact is more important. Mr. MacDonald said they need to see the debt service and the whole picture of this. Mr. Clemens said he is going to recommend to the Rocky Hill Chamber of Commerce that they support this as things stand right now and if there is nothing shocking coming out of this.

Councilor Sylvestro said the tax impact will be a snapshot. They have no idea what the Grand List will be three, four or five years out and people have to understand this.

Chairman Rivard asked Councilor Sylvestro if he had any comments speaking for himself on this. Councilor Sylvestro thinks this is a significant improvement over what they have seen in the past.

Mr. Silva said as far as the Town Council is concerned that it is going to be a big selling point as far as what to do with Stevens School. He explained more. Councilor Sylvestro

said in his mind it will be a separate question with regards to what to do with Stevens School.

Mr. Clemens referred to the demolition cost for Stevens School and he asked Councilor Sylvestro if it made sense to have this in the plan. Councilor Sylvestro said the Town Council has to make up its mind as to what it wants to do with Stevens School if the Town Council is looking to reduce the referendum cost. Mr. Dillon said this is a good question for the Town Council when this gets presented to them because it is their decision as to what to do with Stevens School. Mr. MacDonald said he would take this cost out of the plan because it is up to the Town Council as to what it wants to do with Stevens School. It serves no purpose for them to have this in there. Mr. Dillon thinks they should take this out too. Councilor Sylvestro said there is a purpose. This can be highlighted suggesting that a decision has to be made as to whether it stays or goes. A brief discussion followed with regards to this.

Mr. Dillon said they should set up another meeting of this Facilities Committee and maybe have it on March 8, 2010 in case there is anything else they need to do or if there is action they need to take. It was decided to have this meeting on March 9, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Dillon asked Mr. Sorano if he had any costs in their contract for this with regards to putting any boards together. Mr. Sorano said a line item was put in that is not a contracted number to help them out for the referendum. This is for printing costs, etc. Councilor Sylvestro said the boards can be put up in the library.

Mr. Sorano asked everyone if there were any other adjustments they could think of to be made to this before it goes to the next level of presentation.

Chairman Rivard told everyone that tentatively they have a Joint Facilities Committee meeting scheduled for March 11, 2010.

Mr. Morse asked Mr. Sorano if it was possible to get any renditions of what the building might look like at Moser School (i.e. elevations, etc.). Councilor Sylvestro said they had something like this the last time. Mr. Dillon mentioned how Mr. Sorano had said that he has an allowance for boards, etc. Mr. Sorano asked them what they would like this to look like. A brief discussion followed with regards to this.

Finance Director Connolly referred to the money for bonding costs in the plan and he asked if that is for the bond counsel. He was told that it is. Mr. Biega asked them if they can just confirm this.

Mr. MacDonald asked everyone if they were available to have a special Board of Education meeting on March 1, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. Everyone said that would be fine.

2. **Discussion and Recommendation Board of Education Capital Improvement Plan**

Superintendent Dr. Villar said they don't know what is going to be allocated to the Board of Education for the Capital Improvement Plan. They have the plan that had been submitted to the town previously and some of things are just placeholders. They want to send a revised plan to the town that gives the latest and newest priorities. He said one thing at play in his mind though is they don't know how much the Town Council is going to be able to allocate to Capital Improvements for next year so that they can make this work. The other thing at play is the impact that a pending referendum has on some of these items. He thinks they need more time on this and Mr. Dillon said he agrees. Mr. MacDonald suggested they table this for now until Superintendent Dr. Villar gets more information from Town Manager Barbara Gilbert. Superintendent Dr. Villar thought that was a wise move. Councilor Sylvestro said the budget is coming out at the end of March.

Chairman Rivard didn't think they needed a motion to table this item at this point because there had been discussion on it.

Chairman Rivard asked if there was any other business at this point. There was none.

Moved by Frank Morse, seconded by Edward (Alex) Silva, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Anne Booth

Accepted by: _____ Date: _____