

MISSION STATEMENT
ENSURING CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT FOR EACH LEARNER

The Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D. commits to ensuring that each scholar develops the social, academic, critical and creative thinking skills necessary to meet with success in college, career, citizenship and life. The responsibility for education is shared by student, family, school and community.

MINUTES

The Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D. School Committee held a special meeting on **May 29, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Olenn Auditorium at Wells High School, 200 Sanford Road, Wells.

School Committee members attending included Damon Russell, Russell Fox, Marc Saulnier, Diana Allen, David Johnson and Les LaFond. Administrators in attendance included Superintendent of Schools Elaine Tomaszewski, Karen Ropes, Jack Molloy and Pat Hayden.

Visitors attending included Michael Richards, Linda Delany-Angus, Andrew Bridge, Jodine Adams, Dave Barton, John Kreie, Jim Olin, Josh Gould, Zak Harding, Ashley Breton and Sarah Tavares.

I. Call to Order/Reading of Mission Statement

Chairperson Fox called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and read the District Mission Statement.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Adjustments to Agenda

Add Executive Session Item VII. A. to discuss a personnel issue; move previously scheduled Executive Session to VII. B.

IV. Public Comments

David Barton – Ogunquit resident – stated he is impressed with the ranking of the high school. Mr. Barton said if we receive a new building, it needs to be maintained properly. He noted the building doesn't get the rankings, it's what goes on in the building that gets the rankings.

V. School Committee Workshop – Wells High School Building Project/Options

Superintendent Tomaszewski reviewed the various options, discussed cost and shared pros and cons of each option. Chair Fox asked the School Committee to state their view in making a decision.

Les LaFond is still torn and shared the following points:

- Feels there will be disruption to students with option D as well as the other options
- It is a positive that our students can access all three schools by walking
- There would be a cost savings in being able to switch from oil to gas
- A phase in would take too much time and feels so much can happen by 2024
- Whatever choice is made, we need to know in our hearts that it's the right choice for the children

David Johnson is still torn and shared the following points:

- Life safety issues need to be addressed
- Feels in the past, these buildings were neglected; we need to take care of our schools like we do our homes
- Population is declining; a new building would need room to grow, but not overbuild
- This is a huge amount of money, making it a huge decision

Damon Russell offered the following points:

- Life safety and code issues are important
- Feels it's too bad we can't meet the facility needs without meeting program needs
- Need to keep the impact in mind

Marc Saulnier offered the following points:

- Option B came from frustration of the cost of option C
- Need to review overruns for our other two school projects
- The most important thing in a school are the children; next important is the teachers; thinks we should reward teachers with a building they can get excited about teaching in

Diana Allen offered the following points:

- Hearing option C and D from community, but isn't thrilled with the price of either
- Suggests we look at Brewer Middle School
- Feels if we go with option D, making the building green is a must
- Reiterated maintenance needs to be done properly
- Need to do this for our children

Russell Fox offered the following points:

- Wants to keep the building we have, address safety concerns and maybe address educational issues
- Need to pay attention to educational needs
- The tax increase concerns him; we will receive no funding from the state

VI. Public Comment

Jim Olin – Wells resident – asked how we would manage the work being done while the children are in school. He stated with portables being required, the children would be outside during winter and wet months.

Jim Daly – WHS Principal, Wells resident – said there is no way to do a renovation without disrupting students.

David Johnson feels it will be disruptive no matter what the decision; it's just a matter of degree of disruption.

Jim Olin shared how construction near his office disrupted his work. He feels we need to minimize the amount of disruption to allow our students to focus and we need to set our kids up for the future. He said renovation cost nearly as much as building new. He asked if option C includes overages. Bruce Rudolph answered yes, all three options include overages. Jim stated he is very much in favor of option D.

Russell Fox asked about York County Community College (YCCC). Jim Daly said YCCC has huge space issues. Jim also said new construction is so much easier than renovation; you can't always estimate overages. Diana Allen agreed YCCC may be interested in the current building if we build new.

John Kreie – Wells resident – thanked Bruce and Jim. John believes the school environment can control learning. He stated he attended Career Day at the high school and found it unreal the amount of adjustments faculty had to make. The Committee needs to see this first hand.

Zak Harding – Wells resident – said going green is a great option, but pointed out the cost will go up even though we will make it back in savings. Feels Harriman's estimates are comparable. Said parking will be an issue if we build new and have people in the current building.

Tim Roche – Wells resident – blames the School Committees prior for lack of field maintenance because of zero budgets. He said a new building might get us to number one from number six; Wells and Greenville are the only two in the top ten without a new school. Tim feels we need to look at what we are doing to our younger kids; we need to step up and do this for our kids. He said he loves option D, but could live with option C. He also said we need a school we are all proud of. He wonders if our great staff will start to leave for better working conditions.

Ashley Breton – Wells resident – said first and third graders recently visited Wells High School and they were disgusted. Ashley would like to believe we would learn from our mistakes and take better care of a new building. For her it's a "no brainer", go with option D. She wonders if our population would go up if our high school was better. She offered to promote a new school.

Russell Fox encouraged people to visit the high school.

Les LaFond expressed discouragement in the fact not many people come to voice their opinion at this meeting and the annual budget meeting.

Marc Saulnier stated he talks to more constituents in the grocery store than any other mode of communication. He suggested we put the School Committee contact information in the newspaper.

John Kreie asked if the School Committee will recommend one option for the towns people to vote on. Chair Fox answered yes.

David Barton feels what happens to this building will be important and will sway decisions. If we go with option D, we need to have a clear decision on what will be done with the current building. He also feels that students should give tours of the building so people can see it from their point of view.

Diana Allen agrees we need a clear plan for this building. She asked if we could hold an Open House. Various ideas on the use of the current building were discussed.

Jim Daly said we certainly could hold an open house and the students will do whatever it takes. He said we can't control what happened in the past, but we can control what happens in the future.

Sarah Tavares – Ogunquit resident – stated she has not heard a lot of Ogunquit residents saying they are in favor of a new school. She asked if a renovation can take care of all safety issues, including asbestos. The answer is yes. Sarah believes the residents can give a small something for our children.

The School Committee decided they need more information in order to make their decision. A meeting was scheduled for June 6 to address the additional questions that arose at tonight's meeting.

VII. Executive Session

- A. To discuss an employee issue pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A)

Motion to enter Executive Session at 8:43 p.m. to discuss an employee issue pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A)

Moved: Diana Allen Seconded: Marc Saulnier Vote: 6-0

The Committee was declared out of Executive Session at 9:11 p.m. by Chairperson Fox.

- B. To discuss an employee contract item pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A)

Motion to enter Executive Session at 9:12 p.m. to discuss an employee contract item pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A)

Moved: Diana Allen Seconded: Marc Saulnier Vote: 6-0

The Committee was declared out of Executive Session at 9:23 p.m. by Chairperson Fox.

Action as a result of Executive Session:

Motion to have correspondence reviewed by School Committee's attorney

Moved: Les LaFond Seconded: David Johnson Vote: 6-0

Motion to approve the Superintendent's contract for the 2012-2013 school year to include a 3% salary increase

Moved: Diana Allen Seconded: Les LaFond Vote: 6-0

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Moved: Les LaFond Seconded: David Johnson Vote: 6-0

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Tomaszewski, Secretary
Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D.