

**WALLINGFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
ROOM 14-C, LYMAN HALL HIGH SCHOOL
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2015**

Mission

To inspire, educate and support all students as they discover and pursue their personal best.

Vision

Wallingford Public Schools, with families and community, will distinguish itself with innovative teaching and learning experiences in a safe and supportive environment. Our goal is to ignite passion for learning and excellence in every student so that each becomes a life-long contributor to the local and global communities.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman, Roxane McKay, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

She reported that there are four Council members here: Mr. Testa, Mr. Fishbein, Mr. Cervoni & Mr. Letourneau

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

BOLAT, BROODER, CASTELLI, HLAVAC, MCKAY

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

MENZO, DEPTULA, NAPOLITANO

DISCUSSION OF LYMAN HALL ATHLETIC FIELD

Dr. Menzo began by giving some history of the proposed Lyman Hall Athletic Field. He explained that on November 13, 2012 there was an Operations Committee meeting when the need for a new track was presented. The committee presented that there is a need for a new turf field, six-lane track, and lights. A suggestion was made to apply for the Worrell Grant. Mary Fritz, State Representative, reported that she might be able to secure the \$525,000 that has previously been approved to be used for a different project. The Board had encumbered funds of \$300,000 put into an account for the project.

On November 18, 2013 there was another Operations meeting where there was discussion about the Worrell Grant to decide what needed to be included in the Athletic Complex project at Lyman Hall. It was decided to hold an Executive Session since the discussion would include costs for each phase of the project. The architect provided information to the Board. The challenge is to get funding.

He went on to say that on December 9, 2013 the Board approved to move forward with the project. A vote was made with 6-1 with two Board members absent. He read the items that were approved were a new 8 lane track, field lighting system, all-weather multi-sport field, new field house and all site work related.

He went on to say that the Board decided to budget \$500,000 for the 2014-2015 year. During the budget process, the Town Council and Mayor agreed to review maintenance items to see if they met the capitol/bonding project standard. Roxane McKay, Marc Deptula and he met with the Mayor in the first

week of September and went through the projects that could be bonded. He shared the initial plan and the mayor agreed that the items that needed to be completed were for safety and code. At that meeting the Mayor said he would consider going to the Town Council for a six-lane track and lighting. Since Dr. Menzo knew that timing of the bid is important he put together a spreadsheet of expected timelines for the project. On January 3, 2015 the project was to go out to bid, but it still has not gone out.

On November 10, 2014 the Board heard a presentation about the Mayor's concern with the funding. The board asked for a bid on optional costs for an eight-lane track and turf. They wanted to develop a bid with options.

The Mayor said the options were not allowed and only the six-lane track and lighting was to be bid on.

Mayor Dickinson entered and said that the lanes on the track are not the issue but that he would prefer to have the money from the State to support the project before it is to be put out to bid. He explained his reason for this is that the Town is going to need 1.8 million dollars for the Affordable Care and 1.5 million for the phosphorous removal and the taxes will need to go up if we have to put out money for the Athletic field. He said he would prefer to wait until the spring to see if we get the money from the State.

There was discussion about a phone call that where the Mayor told Roxane and Sal that they couldn't bid on eight-lane track, only a six-lane track.

Dr. Menzo reported that in the past six years we have been accountable for the large projects and have never gone over the bid price.

Someone from the audience asked if we have paid the architect already. Mr. Deptula reported that we have paid the architect but there are still a few planning and zoning issues.

There was discussion about whether the bid need to be put out before requesting money from the State. There were suggestions to get estimates to give to the State before getting bids.

There was also discussion about not doing everything at once. If just the track is replaced when the turf is ready to be put in the track will have to be messed up to do that. It will end up costing more money if it is done piecemeal so it should be done as a whole package.

Dr. Menzo reported that there is a five year plan in place and we've been able to pull out capitol projects. The \$500,000 has been allocated but not appropriated and Mary Mushinsky has really been pushing it.

The Mayor said he would consider an eight lane track with lights with an option of turf in the bid but there are serious consequences if we don't get the money. Everything has a ripple effect and it will all come down to the taxpayers.

Mr. Fishbein said the priorities should be for our kids.

The Mayor requested that he and Dr. Menzo meet for further discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. McKay adjourned the special meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Napolitano