

East Greenwich School Committee

Building Committee

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Minutes

Attendees: EGSD: Alyson Powell (BC Chair), Bob Wilmarth (EG Fac. Dir.), Kevin Murphy (SC Mem), Alexis Meyer (Supt.), Maggie Baker (Fin. Dir.), Neil Marcaccio (MTSS/Principal), Michael Podraza (Asst. Supt.), Dan Seger (Principal) COLLIERS: Chris Speigel, JAED: Phil Conte, Nate Ginsburg, TOWN: Andy Nota (Town Mgr.), Mark Schwager (Town Council); Community: Emily Klein
(Community member Jeff Dronzek was unable to attend, but communicated his support for the proposal to Alyson Powell via text message on 3/10/22.)

Discussion:

I. Demographic Study report from Cropper:

Cropper and McKibben walked the BC through the demographic study commissioned by Colliers on behalf of EGSD and presented in December 2021. Explained that the data were forecasts, not projections, and described the difference between the two types of study. Forecasts are more specific to individual locations (East Greenwich) because of the types of data used. Noted that only approved development plans and approved educational plans were factored in to the report. Also noted that, unlike many districts, EG has "bounced back" from the drop in enrollment experienced due to Covid.

Ultimate conclusions are that 1. existing housing stock is a much bigger driver of population than new construction; 2. there is currently a very large population of elderly homeowners in EG, and 3. the district WILL see in-migration and enrollment increases over the next 10 years as the older population dies and/or relocates due to needing age appropriate living assistance. Councilor Schwager asked if the elderly are ever replaced by "empty nesters" and Dr. McKibben answered that it was less than 20% so did not really impact greater migration flow. Additional factors that may drive up enrollment (but were not included in the report) are development of CTE program and addition of universal Pre-K.

II. Master Planning Recommendation from Colliers:

Colliers reviewed the process that led to today's recommended option. Presented option that proposes: A new school construction at Frenchtown site that would encompass all grades 3-5; additions and renovations at meadowbrook farms; additions and renovation

as Hanaford with a conversion of this school to a PK-2; additions and renovations at EGHS. This proposal was recommended based on the identification of needs - alignment with the educational program, addressing existing and future capacity issues, and creating greater equity, as well as the desire to keep neighborhood schools, the suitability of the building sites, the ability to complete without affecting operations, and the qualification of between 50-52.5% reimbursement from RIDE. Studio JAED presented the BC with test fit schematics of the buildings consistent with the proposal.

Discussion included considerations of timing, funding, transportation, and community commitment. Mr. Wilmarth suggested adding contingencies in design in case portables need to be added during future "bubble" enrollment years.

After discussion, BC collectively agreed to schedule a second meeting to allow members time to review the information and discuss again before making a decision to move forward with a recommendation to the full School Committee.

A meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 1:00pm