

MINUTES
Chatfield / LoPresti School Building Committee
Tuesday, October 14, 2008
Chatfield School faculty Lounge

Members present: John Putorti, Frank Conroy, Paul Roy, Sandra Gesek, Bruce Baker, Phyllis Jachimowski, Ray Catlin, Fred Stanek, Peter Kubik, Trisha Danko, Mark Thompson and Donald Smith.

Not present: Jay Hatfield, Kurt Miller, Judy Legeza, Gene Coppola

Others present: First Selectman Robert J. Koskelowski, Town Counsel George Temple, Town Finance Director Doug Thomas, Assistant Superintendent Rick Belden, Chatfield School Principal Jay Brennan, Paul Antinozzi, Architect, Mike Ayles, Architect and Lauren Harrison, newspaper reporter.

Chairman Donald Smith opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Smith indicated that due to the Columbus Day holiday on Monday, October 13, 2008 he was unable to properly post the meeting notice at Town Hall. Accordingly, no action would be taken at the meeting this evening. However, it would be conducted as a workshop in order to disseminate information and discuss the next step(s) in the project. Chairman Smith congratulated the committee members for their hard work to support the successful passage of the referendum.

Rick Belden distributed various documentation relating to the ED049 Grant Application process and the School Construction plan process. It was noted that the ED049 needed to be completed and submitted to the State of Connecticut Department of Education by June 30, 2009 in order to lock in the current state reimbursement rate.

First Selectman Koskelowski spoke regarding his concerns about the economy and the statements made by State Treasurer Denise Nappier concerning uncertainty about future State bonding. At this time, he indicated that he would like no additional funds to be spent on the project until the State of Connecticut approves the bonding commitment for their portion of the project. Based upon the State funding process, the commitment would not take place until the Spring / Summer, 2010. Discussion ensued amongst the committee members, Town Counsel George Temple, First Selectman Bob Koskelowski and the architects concerning project timelines, funding commitments prior to State approval, and potential risks if the project was delayed from one to two years.

It was subsequently determined that 1.) the ED049 grant application process would move forward and be completed to meet the June 30, 2009 deadline; and 2.) the architects would prepare multiple scenarios outlining the risks and rewards associated with the project if it was started immediately, delayed one year, or delayed two years. This analysis would be presented to the committee at their next meeting, which is scheduled for Monday, November 10th, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Chatfield School Faculty Lounge.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Rick Belden
October 16, 2008