MINUTES OF THE TEACHER/STAFF INPUT SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL SCHOOL MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE (SMC) MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2020 at 2:00 P.M. IN THE BOE CONFERENCE ROOM, CHESHIRE CT 06410.

Present
Jen Bates, Rich Gusenburg, Anne Marie Kemp
Staff: Arnett Talbot, Asst. Town Manager and Dept. of Education Asst. Supt. of Schools Marlene Silano

1. **ROLLCALL**
The Clerk called the roll and a quorum was determined to be present.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
The group Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 22, 2020**
MOTION by Ms. Kemp; seconded by Ms. Bates

MOVED to approve the minutes of January 22, 2020 subject to corrections, additions, deletions.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

4. **DISCUSSION RE: STRUCTURE, CONTENT AND SCHEDULING FOR INPUT SESSIONS FOR CHESHIRE PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND STAFF**
Chairman Gusenburg submitted a draft document for subcommittee introduction at the input meetings. The committee reviewed and briefly discussed the document content and amendments.

- Remove Supt. Silano from the committee membership list, as she is “staff” to the subcommittee
- Eliminate the sentence referring to the “6-8 middle school” concept.
- Inform attendees of a five (5) minute limit on remarks to the subcommittee
- If someone has already addressed/spoken about something on the list, request people to agree and move on.

Ms. Bates talked about understanding how people feel about an issue…use show of hands for agreement or disagreement on something cited.

The subcommittee should provide something in advance of each of the school meetings, and Ms. Kemp suggested inclusion of a list of specific items to be discussed.

Mr. Gusenburg recommended preparation of a poster listing the specific items.
It was recommended by Ms. Bates to add “traffic issues, school drop-off and pick-up, and security to enter a school building” as topics for discussion and input.

MOTION by Ms. Bates; seconded by Ms. Kemp.

MOVED to include the following as specific items on the list for review and discussion at the input meetings…“traffic issues, school drop-off and pick-up, and security to enter a school building”.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Supt. Silano presented the committee members with the schedule of sessions at the Cheshire schools.

The schedule was reviewed and approved by the committee members.

February 5th, Doolittle School – Ms. Bates, Ms. Kemp and Mr. Gusenburg can attend.

February 6th, Humiston School – two members will attend; names unknown at this time.

February 10th, Dodd Middle School – all members will attend.

February 13th – CHS session #1 – 9:30 a.m. Ms. Kemp & Mr. Gusenburg will attend.

CHS session #2 – 2:00 p.m. Ms. Kemp & Mr. Gusenburg

February 19th – Chapman School – all members will attend.

February 20th – Highland School – Mr. Gusenburg & Ms. Bates will attend.

February 27th – Norton School – all members will attend.

There are no sessions scheduled for Darcey School at this time.

Supt. Silano commented on the biggest concern being information communicated to everyone in the school district. There will be messages funneled through the district union to members.

After the school input sessions are completed, Mr. Gusenburg expects the committee members will meet, review the information, compile a report and present it to the full SMC meeting.

Filming of meetings – Ms. Talbot pointed out that all subcommittee meetings are to be filmed, and this could impact the teachers and staff from speaking up about issues and concerns.
The committee discussed how teachers and staff would feel about filming of meetings, and whether they would prefer cameras not be present. It was stated the video could be secured and not posted, but under FOI, Ms. Talbot said someone could request its release. Supt. Silano does not believe anything stated would be of concern. The committee agreed on the importance of getting input from teachers and staff...video or no video of the meetings. Without taping the meetings, the committee would follow up on statements and input and communicate what they heard, and relay a report back to the full SMC. This report will be part of the video of the SMC meeting. There will be tours of all the school buildings and opportunity for staff to speak. Ms. Bates thinks a video of teachers talking about a school issues and concerns would have an impact on the public.

Following discussion, there was agreement and decision that the school building teacher/staff input meetings would not be videotaped. It was agreed that any teacher or staff member wanting to speak with SMC members are welcome to attend a regular meeting and present their comments. There may be specific teachers who would be willing to participate in a marketing video tape for the SMC marketing plan.

Ms. Talbot will present the committee’s decision not to tape school building meetings to Council Chairman Oris. She advised that there must be public notification of all the school meetings scheduled.

Mr. Gusenburg commented on the school building meetings with teachers and staff focusing on fact finding, and his belief staff will participate even with filming of meetings.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** - none.

6. **SET NEXT MEETING DATES**
Upon completion of all the school building sessions, the committee will schedule a meeting to review, discuss, and prepare their report for the full SMC.

Security – Any person planning on attending the school meetings must be prepared to show identification before entering the building.

Supt. Silano will insure there is notification to all school administrators on the SMC committee meeting at their school...date and time.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Ms. Bates; seconded by Ms. Kemp.

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 2:35 p.m.
VOTE  The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

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Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk