Minutes: School Modernization Out of District Sub Committee
Monday, February 24, 2020
South Windsor Elementary Schools
Orchard Hill Elementary School. New Construction. Opened 2018
Eli Terry Elementary School – under construction scheduled to open fall 2010

Meeting began at 9:00 am
In Attendance: Jeff Solan, CPS, Sylvia Nichols, Rich Gusenburg, Dr. Kate Carter, Superintendent South Windsor Public Schools.

The South Windsor project, though focused only on elementary schools, provided insight into the overall process, successes and challenges of long term planning.

Dr Carter explained the process of evaluating the South Windsor Elementary Schools facilities and the implementation of a 10 year plan. An owner’s rep was selected to begin the process of developing and implementing a comprehensive plan. The owner’s rep developed the RFP for Architects and Construction companies with the PBC and served as representative to State agencies, P&Z, BOE and other town bodies. In Dr. Carter’s opinion, it is an absolute necessity to engage an owner’s rep for projects of this size.

She felt it imperative to engage with all stakeholders- parents, staff & professionals through constant input as the projects moved forward. The 10 year plan was divided into 3 separate referenda. The BOE worked with an independent PAC, developed by a retired teacher and citizens to begin a consistent, transparent and thorough marketing effort to present the facts in a totally non partisan and non political forum. The positive, energetic and accurately informed campaign throughout the continuing 10 year project has resulted in general community support to date. The PAC has served as a model for other school districts and is available as a resource for our questions in the future.

Flexibility of their long term plan has allowed design changes and space adjustments to be implemented in a cost effective manner as initial enrollment projections have dramatically increased during the course of the project.

The committee visited a newly built school and a school currently under construction. Conversations were held with construction managers, facilities managers, instructional staff and administrators to solicit comments regarding the successes and challenges of the process. Information gathered will be included in the sub committee presentation to the full School modernization committee at the conclusion of the tour series.

For more information: www.southwindsorschools.org/elementaryfacilities

The next out of district tour will be held on Monday, March 3, at 9 am in Guilford.

Our meeting concluded at 11:45 am.
Attest: ___________________________________________________________________

Sylvia Nichols