

Winslow Junior High Building Committee Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2013

6:00 P. M. to 7:30 P. M.

Winslow Junior High Library

Eric Haley, John Ferry, Jack Nivison, Jerry St. Amand, Kyle Price, Pat Poulin, Mike Fortin, Shelley Phillips, Mike Heavener, Lisa Ericson, Kevin Michaud, Paula Pooler, Henning Stabins, Earl Coombs, Ron Weary, Linda Lambert, Peter Thiboutot, Mark Pelletier, Sue Walters

1. Review minutes of January 24, 2013

Motion to accept minutes, Jerry/ Second John Ferry. Unanimous

2. Winslow Junior High Building Need/Issue Matrix –

Henning Stabins presented a format for us to help organize our thoughts.

3. Feedback from presentation by Stephen Blatt of Stephen Blatt Architects

Our charge from the last meeting was to process Stephen Blatts presentation and provide feedback.

John- Sports. Is concerned with the half gym. Does not feel that will suffice to replace the existing gym at the jr. high.

Jack- Agrees with John's comments regarding his concerns for gym space. With 800 students, Jack does not feel that we will not have enough space. Concerned that the half gym being proposed is more of a play room. Room for seating and bleachers is also a concern. Tournaments and other community uses (Parks and Rec.) were also expressed as a concern.

John- If the gym is connected to the elementary school, it would be difficult to ask students to walk during the winter months (at night) from the elementary school to the high school. No locker rooms would also be an issue. The music room (size of the room) was also a concern in the proposed plan.

Eric- Reported that sticker shock (6 million....and that is conservative) was a concern for several committee members (especially since we still don't have all the components we think will be needed).

Kevin pointed out that there are some things in Stephen's design that no longer exist. Suggest that he and Kyle meet with Stephen to review the changes. Kyle points out that Traffic flow is another concern. There was no cost for creating a new traffic pattern. Science labs were another area that was not mentioned.

Stabin Henning points out that essentially, he needs our spec sheets as is for the existing building and then he needs to know our needs.

Sue- As a special ed. administrator, a k-8 building is helpful in the management of various programs. Provides flexibility in staff scheduling.

Kevin- A lot of programming (unified arts) has been whittled away due to budgetary constraints. Will we ever get them back? Do we need to plan for space for these programs in the future? Can we afford that under the current budget constraints?

Ginny Brackett- Would like to see a STEM lab that would be designed for more hands on learning.

John-What about the existing building? What can be done with this building? Is there some space in the existing building that could be used?

Eric- Other things afoot that could help with savings. Energy savings and attrition loses for example.

Earl- would like to see the comparison that Kevin suggested. Suggest getting the principals and teachers involved with that charge.

Kyle- Suggest that we look at our enrollment projections as we work through the decision making process.

Eric- Handed out combined debt service (town and school). In 2017-18 both the town and the school loses a lot of debt service (\$604,345.91).

Jerry. People get nervous about the money. Everyone in the room needs to understand what it is that needs to be done and to have a plan that works. Who is pushing that we meet every two weeks? Jerry doesn't see anything happening for at least two years. We need to have a reason, some logic to go with our decisions. He questions the cost to repair the jr. high. He would like to say to the citizens that we can afford what we propose and we need what we are proposing. Lets take our time and do this right.

Eric- Enrollment projections (see below). Going from 885 to 731. 150 less students total over the next 5 or 6 years.

Kyle- The retired debt service of \$604,345.91 may not a true figure because other things will need to be bonded. Mike Heavener. agrees. At some point in the near future there are things that need to be addressed in the community. When speaking about a dollar amount you want to spend, you need to decide what you can afford. If you do something other than that, the community will reject it.

Kevin- What if we can't afford what we need? Should we build something that isn't adequate? Kevin asked Jerry what he meant when he said, "He questions if the cost to renovating the jr. high is adequate." Jerry explained, we didn't ask Stephen Blatt to look at the existing jr. high and convert it for other purposes in addition to a school. What if

you made the building multi purpose where you had the town and the school sharing the building thus sharing the cost? For example, you could keep grade 6 at the elementary school, keep 7 and 8th grade and put a program in the jr. high that has compatible use (e.g. Public Library, Superintendents Office, Town Office etc.). Should we have someone look at the existing building to see what could be done with it and what that cost would look like?

Eric- A collaborative is a very interesting concept. Eric mentioned the possibility to Stephen Blatt. Stephen Blatt asked if we wanted him to put some numbers together. Eric said to wait and would get guidance from the committee.

Mark- Suggest a needs assessment to determine our needs. Eric liked Kevin's idea of looking at what do we currently have (do an inventory) and what we want.

Stabin suggest doing the same kind of inventory with the current gym and how it's being used.

Earl- We need to continue exploring. We have a responsibility to look at all the options.

Mike Heavener. Seems like we have two options on the table. One is to add a wing to the elementary school and the other option is to explore a collaborative option for the existing jr. high. If the numbers support a collaborative, he would be 100% for designing a collaborative project. Feels that there is a potential to do something big that would be the heart of the community.

4. Combined summary of town and school debt service by year
5. Combined summary of WES and WJH projected enrollments by year (see below)
6. Another option?
7. Public Meeting
8. Next steps

A. Assessment of current space at elementary school and existing jr. high. Kevin and Kyle

B. Eric will contact Stephen Blatt about a collaborative possibility with the jr. high.

9. Future agenda items

10. Next Meeting Date March 7th. 6:00pm. Winslow Elementary School.