

**MINUTES - BOARD OF EDUCATION PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MEETING HELD MARCH 11, 2021 BY VIDEO CONFERENCE**

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Public access made available through live streaming the Cheshire Public School's YouTube Channel at [www.youtube.com/cheshirepublicschools](http://www.youtube.com/cheshirepublicschools). Public comments were accepted at [CPSCovid19@cheshire.k12.ct.us](mailto:CPSCovid19@cheshire.k12.ct.us).

Planning Committee Members Present: Andrew Martelli, Kathryn Hallen, Timothy White

Board of Education Members Present: Anthony Perugini, Adam Grippo, Faith Ham, Anne Harrigan

Additional Attendees Present: Jeffrey Solan, Superintendent of Schools  
Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent  
Vincent Masciana, Chief Operating Officer  
Charles Neth – School Modernization Committee  
Charles Warrington – Colliers International  
John Koplas – Colliers International  
Michael Zuba – SLR International

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Martelli called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AUDIENCE**

There were no questions or comments received.

**SCHOOL MODERNIZATION PLAN**

**Update on School Modernization Committee (SMC) Efforts.**

Mr. Martelli welcomed the participants including the invited guests Messrs. Neth, Warrington, Koplas and Zuba. He provided a summary of the recently released survey results prepared for the Cheshire School Modernization Committee conducted by the Center for Research & Public Policy which, among other findings, showed large community support for modernization of the Cheshire Public Schools. Mr. Grippo asked that in addition to the presentation dated February 2021 that was provided to the Board members prior to the meeting that the write-in comments be shared with the Board.

**Review of Potential Elementary School Scenarios and Redistricting.**

Mr. Martelli introduced Chuck Warrington and John Koplas of Colliers International who provided an update on the costs of the two scenarios that were being considered by the SMC. Mr. Koplas shared his screen and explained the details of the high and low budget estimates for Scenario 1a, with base assumptions that include construction of new K-6 elementary school, taking Darcey and Chapman offline, with renovation of the remaining elementary schools as well as renovation of Dodd and CHS. He then explained the details of the high and low budget estimates for Scenario 2a, with base assumptions that include construction of new 6-8 middle school and a new Chapman School, taking Darcey and Dodd offline, and renovation of the remaining elementary schools and CHS. In the discussion that ensued, it was noted that the SMC elected to remove Scenario 1a as a

viable option because the new K-6 elementary school that was projected to have a peak enrollment of 858 students was too large. Also, Mr. Koplas advised the attendees that Colliers is currently working on a new Scenario 6, at the request of the SMC, which is based on Scenario 1a, except that it would require the construction of two smaller new elementary schools.

Mr. Martelli introduced Mr. Zuba of SLR International Corporation who shared his screen and made a presentation entitled *Conceptual Elementary Redistricting Scenarios 1a & 2a*. It was noted that Scenario 1a, which again, had been removed as a viable option by the SMC, would have required an elementary redistricting that would affect 39% of students, which was undesirable. Scenario 2a, on the other hand, would result in an elementary redistricting that would affect only 15% of students.

Messrs. Perugini and Solan provided an updated of the video meeting that was held earlier in the day with the State of Connecticut Office of School Construction Grants & Review (OSCG&R). They cited that in the discussion that took place during that meeting with Mr. Kosta Diamantis, the Director of OSCG&R, the preferred sizes of a new elementary school would be in the 400 to 600 student range and for a middle school in the 900 student range. Director Diamantis also made it clear that the district would not be penalized for exceeding the space standard when providing for the needs of Special Education services in our district schools.

### **Middle School Configuration.**

Mr. Martelli introduced and opened for consideration of the Board members a discussion of the pros and cons of a grade 7 & 8 middle school configuration versus a 6, 7 & 8 middle school configuration. In the discussion that ensued Ms. Hallen indicated that she is a proponent of a 6-8 configuration and Mr. White explained he was a proponent of a 7 & 8 configuration. Mr. Grippo, Ms. Ham and Ms. Harrigan indicated that they would support a configuration based on where the data from the SMC ultimately leads.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mr. White, which was seconded by Ms. Ham, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

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Vincent J. Masciana  
Chief Operating Officer

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Carol Jesensky, Executive Assistant

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