

Memorial Boulevard Intradistrict  
Arts Magnet School Committee  
Regular Meeting February 28, 2019

Present: Cheryl Assis, Dr. Michael Dietter, Lori Eschner, John Lodovico,  
Steve Masotti, Dave Preleski, and Frank Stawski

Excused: John Smith and Chris Wilson

Also Present: Tim Callahan, Chris Cassin, Ed D'Amato, Carly Fortin, Dr. Susan  
Kalt-Moreau, Lea McCabe, Roger Rousseau, Pete Winger, and  
Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Dietter.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**On a motion by John Lodovico and seconded by Frank Stawski, it was  
unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on February 14,  
2019.**

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Jeff Clement of 35 Winterberry Circle stated he went to school in Bristol and currently is a resident of Bristol as well as a business owner that employs Bristol residents. If the committee decides to vote for PLA, he would not be able to bid on the work.

Jeff Caggiano, a Board of Education Commissioner, thanked the MBIAMS committee and expressed appreciation for the work that has been performed to this point. He wanted to clarify that his agreement with the BOE to move forward with this project was to reuse the building as a school. In his opinion, the teachers, administrators, citizens, and the approximately 7500 other students are being misrepresented. The feasibility study needs to be addressed rather than "doing nothing."

Mike Petosa of 30 Walnut Street is affiliated with CT AFL-CIO. He reminded the committee he addressed them on October 25, 2018. A PLA is emotional for the city. It is positive for Bristol because going with a PLA will allow for Bristol residents, minorities, women, and veterans to work on this project. Having a PLA will allow those who have a vested interest in our city and have invested in our city to work in our city. Make an investment and hire PLA.

Amy Blackwood, a Bristol resident, is the Executive Director of Building Pathways – CT. She settled in Bristol, CT and raised her children here. Building Pathways provides apprenticeship readiness program for women, veterans, and minorities. Their program helps the participant gain employment, benefits, and affords them the ability to live as a middle class citizen. The PLA supports their concept of earn while you learn.

#### **4. PLA AND OPEN SHOP PRESENTATIONS**

Chris Fryxall presented on behalf of the Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. A copy of his presentation power point is located in office 24 at the Board of Education.

He highlighted the following:

- What is a PLA
- Who supports PLA's
- Safety on the job
- PLA myths
  - Protects jobsite fairness
  - On time, on budget
- PLA's and Local Workers
- PLA's and MBE/SBE Contractors
- Why Open Shop won't bid PLA's
- The impact on Bristol if choosing a PLA
- Benefits of fair and open bidding

On behalf of the PLA, David Roesch and Kimberly Glassman spoke. In addition, they brought John Fussell, as counsel to answer any potential questions. A copy of the presentation power point is located in office 24 at the Board of Education. They highlighted the following:

- What is a PLA
- Explanation of building trades apprenticeship programs
- National average apprenticeship completion rates
- CT average completion rates of CT Building Trades
- Opportunities for Veterans (Helmets to Hardhats)
- Building Pathways
- PLA myths
  - Increase costs and decrease competition
  - Require workers to join a union
  - Non-Union contractors make up 80%+ of the industry and their workers are just as well trained
  - Residency and Apprentice requirements can be achieved by non-PLA projects
- Completion rates of CT ABC

## 5. PROGRAMMING UPDATE

Carly Fortin presented an update of the programming to the committee. A copy of the presentation power point is located in office 24 at the Board of Education. She highlighted the following:

- Vision of the graduate
- What we are hearing from the surveys
- Initial design principles
- Process to date
- Original plan/first round of planning/staff and space minimum counts
- Early concepts
- Planning for pathways/possible pathways
- Potential schedules - A/B schedules/mid-day transportation
- Next steps
  - Focus on middle school programming
  - Continue to listen to MS and HS students, parents, and teachers
  - Build upon design principles and constraints
  - Continue to inform the BOE on program design progress and confirm support of the final design before actual programming begins

Lori Eschner expressed her concerns regarding the National Core Art Standards and feels when she joined the committee, the vision was for an “arts” school and it has since changed from that original vision. The four anchor standards under each of the arts are creating, connecting, responding and performing/presenting. The arts are judged on those four major standards. According to the state, the arts curriculum/programming needs to address all four and the following classes must be a part of the curriculum: Dance (not PE class), Media Arts, Music, Theater, and Visual Arts. Carly stated these are all covered within the pathways they are working with.

Frank Stawski also expressed his concern with the amount of time it is taking to get the programming completed. He feels this should have been started much sooner than it was. He is concerned the architects can't complete their design without knowing the programming. He feels the programming group should have a more specific timeline of when they will be complete with their tasks.

Because the programming and design are working concurrently, there are still many unanswered questions. The key target date for programming is to have a true schedule mapped out by December of 2019. Rusty Malik stated as long as they understand the pathways, they can still continue to design and reiterated they are designing flexible spaces.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Dietter wanted to revisit the question of “who approves the programming” that was asked at the last meeting. In short, the BOE will ultimately approve the curriculum for this school. On advice of the programming group, they continue to engage and provide information to the BOE. The programming group will look at the curriculum and methodology and once there is a clear picture, they will also share it with OSCGR. The building committee does not approve the programming but they approve the design and other work presented by the architect and the construction manager.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m. by Chair Dietter.

Respectfully submitted,

*Tara Landon*

Tara Landon

Administrative Assistant/Operations

APPROVED