

Tolland Board of Education  
Finance and Facilities Committee

Minutes – January 28, 2014

Members Present: Patrick Doyle, Joe Sce

Administrators and Staff Present: William D. Guzman, Superintendent

Invited Guest: Jim Barrett DRA Associates

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Doyle thanked everyone for coming and reminded meeting attendees that we had met with DRA Associates (DRA) on December 16, 2013 and agreed that DRA would follow up with building principals to ensure their input into the process before scheduling the final workshop.

Mr. Barrett provided a brief presentation reminding committee members what has already been shared through the first three workshops, including a few charts trending declining enrollment. Mr. Barrett again emphasized the declining enrollment trend is typical of many other towns in CT. There was some discussion about the declining enrollment charts, done by school as well as for the entire district, to review the methodology. Mr. Guzman pointed out some discrepancies in numbers between the trend charts provided and the numbers on the “options for grade configuration” charts provided. Mr. Barrett agreed to confirm those figures with Mr. Moore and either make changes or call Mr. Guzman to explain the reason for the discrepancy.

Mr. Doyle requested Mr. Barrett share the feedback DRA received from principals. Mr. Barrett informed the committee that Paul Moore from DRA had met with the principals. Mr. Barrett summarized the conversations Paul had with the principals of the High School, Middle School, Intermediate School, and Birch Grove Primary School. Most of the summarized conversations with the principals centered around their view of the impact of enrollment reductions and the opportunities from such reductions.

The committee discussed next steps and in consultation with Mr. Barrett agreed to bring the idea of a fourth and final budget workshop to the Tolland Board of Education to explore scheduling on either March 6<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Barrett expressed the purpose of the workshop would be to present a narrower range of options based on their research and including what they have heard from staff and residents, probe for agreement (or disagreement) with those options, as well as determine if another idea might exist as an outlier they need to research for inclusion in their final report.

Members agreed this would be a good step moving forward.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Patrick Doyle  
Vice Chair, Tolland Board of Education