

**Colebrook School Board
Building Expansion Committee
Meeting Notes
September 21, 2023
6:00 pm
Colebrook School Library**

Members Present: Nate Lebel, Robert Murphy, Tanya Young, Deb Greene, Joey Sweatt, Rhonda Lyons, Stacey Campbell, Kristin Brooks, Todd Facey, Tom Allin, Shahanna Lebel, Lindey Falconer, Craig Hamelin, Kevin McKinnon, Lisa Placy, Ryan Call, Brook Stevens, Michelle Strasburger, Tia Cloutier, Shane Cloutier, Kim Wheelock, Dawn Hall, Debra Taylor (ex-officio member).

Public in Attendance: Richard Cole, Jr., Britni Haley, Beverly White, Jake Mardin, David Brooks

1. Welcome and Introduction of New Members and Guests

Chairman Nate Lebel called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. New members of the committee were welcomed, Kevin McKinnon, Lisa Placy, Tom Allin and Todd Facey.

2. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

The notes of the July 19, 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved.

3. Review and Discuss Design and Scope of Project

Mr. Lance Whitehead, Principal Architect of Lavalley and Brensinger, provided an overview of the history of the project. He noted that the Colebrook Academy was closed in 2019 following a vote of the community. At that time all 125 hs students transferred to the elementary school. After a few years, it became evident that the elementary school was too small for the PK-12 population and the school board set to work planning for an addition to the elementary school.

The Board appointed a building committee in 2021, selected Lavalley Brensinger Architects to design the building and began the process of gathering information. This input included reviewing existing conditions, conducting teacher interviews, defining space needs, setting the educational vision, engaging the public, committee and board input.

Two designs were created, the second was scaled back. The addition totals 28,300 square feet. This includes 19,120 square feet of HS and CTE classroom and lab space and 9,180 square feet of gymnasium space. The

project also includes 100,000 square feet of renovation of the existing Elementary/Middle School to accommodate the population.

Questions:

What is the estimated construction cost per square foot? \$327.00 per SF
Are contingencies included? Yes there are contingencies for escalation.

The Building Aid application was completed in June 2022 and the district applied for state funding. The application was reviewed with the state at their site visit and revisions were made. In December, we were notified of our # 2 ranking for state funding of 60% of our project.

In January the Board requested that approval be sought to remove the gym so that each component of the project could be considered individually by the voters. The state confirmed this and two articles were prepared for the bond.

The Board offered three public hearings to engage the community, however, in March, 2023, the bond was voted down as the community expressed concerns about the tax impact of the project.

4. Review and Discuss Building Aid Process and Allocation

The Building Aid Application was submitted in June, 2022 and revised in September 2022. The application was successful having received a ranking of 772 - which was the second highest of all applicants in the state.

Deficiencies that were noted included fire safety, environmental conditions, traffic, security, unsuitable building envelope, unsuitable educational spaces, overcrowding, High Performance Design, Student population (free and reduced lunch percentage).

It was noted that any substantial changes to the building design would require preapproval of the NHDOE. Any reduction in points would result in reduced rank or loss of rank which would jeopardize the project's eligibility for building aid funding.

5. Discuss Strategies for Communication

The committee agreed to engage the services of NH Listens of UNH to support their work on community engagement. It was noted that much outreach will be required to inform the community.

Debra offered dates that the consultants would be available and the committee agreed to hold their next meeting on October 11. NH Listens will join, review the guide for facilitation for the meeting and train committee members to facilitate the community engagement sessions.

The first agreed upon Community Engagement Meeting Date is October 25 (evening 6-8pm). The committee requested a Saturday as well. Debra will follow up and notify the committee of the Saturday morning session.

6. Identify Tasks for Communication Subcommittee

The committee will attend the training and community engagement sessions in October and November.

The committee will provide feedback to the Superintendent concerning communications.

The committee will provide input for the project facebook page.

7. Discuss Strategies for Capital Campaign

The Superintendent discussed outreach that was ongoing for the capital campaign. She invited members of the committee to join a subgroup for this purpose. Michelle and Robert volunteered.

8. Identify Tasks for Capital Campaign Subcommittee

The committee will send individual names or lists of potential donors to the Superintendent.

The committee will participate in fundraising activities.

The committee will reach out to potential donors to inform them of the project.

9. Set Next Meeting Date

October 11, 2023 at 6:00 pm

10. Adjourn

The committee meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Debra Taylor, PhD.

Superintendent

Approved: October 10, 2023