

Danville School Building Advisory Group
Wednesday August 31st – 5:30 pm
Meeting Location – Danville School Library
(alternate access via zoom teleconference. See below for further information)
Meeting to be recorded

Agenda

Members: Melissa Conly, Rob Balivet, David Towle, Doug Pastula, Eric Hewitt, Kaity White, Jonathan Austin-Shortt, John Blackmore, Thomas Edgar, Randy Rathburn, Shawn McNamara, David Schilling, Larry Fliegelman, Sarah Welch, Mark Tucker

Welcome and Introductions

- How do you hope to contribute to this group?

Present: Larry Fliegelman, Sarah Welch, Randy Rathburn, Dave Schilling, Doug Pastula, John Blackmore, Marvin Withers, Kaity White, Thomas Edgar, Melissa Conly, Dave Towle, Rob Balivet, Gary Farrow, Eric Hewitt, Bruce Melendy (Zoom), Andrew McGregor (Caledonia Record via Zoom)

Review of the Role of the Group

- A community advisory group to advise the Danville School Board on a recommended course of action concerning the Danville School Facility. An advisory group is not a school board committee.

Organization

- Leadership Structure
 - Moderator - Tom Ziobrowski
 - *We would like to ask Tom to be the moderator for these meetings. The group agreed with 13 votes for yes.*
- Someone to Record Minutes / Take Notes

Review of Ground Rules Membership / Attendance

- You cannot take an action on your own, only advise the Danville School Board on a recommended course of action (from the May 3 Danville School Board Meeting).
- In order to meet, there has to be a minimum of one building principal (meaning either Elementary Principal Sarah Welch or Upper Principal Larry Fliegelman) and one seated school board member (meaning either Dave Towle or Melissa Conly) and 4 other members of any variety. So a minimum of 6.
- You may add new members (again May 3rd, this rule was put in place).

Discussion Items

- Video Tour - viewing and discussion at the discretion of the group
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PKMkwNzO9oM>
 - Questions
 - *How did the efforts get going?*
 - *We realized we were out of space. We have been shuffling elementary classes into spaces they were intended to be. We do not have enough space and deferred mechanical concerns. We have a classroom separated from everyone by the gym. We had 3 firms walk and give ideas. We chose TruEx and ask them to lead a community meeting which happened right before the pandemic.*
 - *Have/Can you project for the future growth*
 - *It's in the facilities report*
 - *This would be designed for about 450 students; this would be the addition or new proposed school. We currently have about 380 students.*
 - *Marvin Withers shared that in 1997, the student body was 500. Dave Schilling shared that we cannot find that data. We have asked the superintendent's office to verify this, and they cannot.*
 - *Since then the square footage/student has increased. The state has current guidelines for this. Larry will ask the superintendent's office to help find those. Rob shared that this comes from the state and that these change for different areas, ages and purpose of the room.*
 - *Are there other new requirements from the state for building/renovations.*
 - *Education Quality Standards*
 - *David S. will share out the review of the building done by Truex Cullins.*
 - *One of the challenges that we see and it is in the video, we have staff in places/spaces not designed for what they are being used for. We don't teach in row anymore. Education is different and has continued to evolve. There is the number of square footage and the usage. Schools have take on a lot of other services (OT, PT) and smaller offices required to meet the needs.*
 - *Rob suggested that we reach a vision on what we want this school to be.*
 - *David T. said that 8 years ago a study was done on the coast of closing the HS and sending all Danville residents to the Academy. The findings were that it cost more to do this. The school board voted in July that school choice and closing the HS are not a choice. The options to consider are 1 (large, 2 (small addition in bus loop & renovations), and 3 (new build).*
 - *Tax impact.*
 - *Danville is a receiving town which puts about a 1/3 impact on resident tax payers.*

- *The superintendent has a meeting on 9/12 with the Finance Director from Winooski to help look at at the tax impact. Hopefully we have the estimate for our next meeting.*
- *This is how our school budgets work too*
- *Our mission is to see how best to move our school forward to impact our students and teachers.*
 - *We need to work to understand the assumptions behind the numbers for design and total cost.*
 - *When the reconstruction/renovation bid was so high, we asked what a new building would cost. These are back of the napkin numbers based upon materials, labor, and time. Eric shared that we have those options as detailed in the report. We can't decide the specifics without knowing which path we want to pursue.*
- *Is this group going to poll more of the community?*
 - *That can be a decision of this group*
- Straw Poll – Needs of the school and needs of the community
- Tax Impact
 - Mark Tucker is working people with experience in the details of financing these types of projects and should have an update in September
 - *See notes above*
- Additional Memberships to consider
- Addition of Teachers to the Group (potential action)
 - Building principals have been actively recruiting
 - *If the group is ok, we will invite staff members who are not Danville residents to get their input. Danville teachers were not able to attend today. Larry and Sarah will try for the next meeting to have more faculty representatives.*

Questions/Comments

- *Rob volunteered to draw out a map to help*
- *What rules do we need to have to move forward.*
 - *How will voting work to propose a decision to the board?*
 -
- *We do not think that November is doable. At next week's board meeting, that will be part of our feedback to establish a new date.*
- *We have had months of school board meetings with this on the docket. What needs to change to bring in other members?*
 - *One more meeting to possibly add more advisory group members*
 - *How can we better advertise these meetings?*
 - *There is a difference between polling the community and have them be a part of the advisory group.*
 - *Kaitly recommended that we post on FB, Front Porch Forum to join.*
 - *Then we do the work to get the word out. (Gary agreed with both of these points and added proving the why)*

- *Bruce agrees with a lot of what is being said, but he also believes that people need to find a way to be informed. Talked about the increase that will come from signing a bond. People do have an obligation to find a way to know what's going on in the school. We have done our research, and it's on the school board website.*

Future Meeting Dates and Work Items

- *Put the word out - signs on the green, Marty's, FB, Front Porch Forum, School Messenger*
 - *Is there money for a mailing?*
 - *We can/should invite people to the next meeting. This will help us generate*
- *Next meeting would be the final time to add group members.*
- *Larry suggested: We will work to find consensus about the group members. Consensus defined as what everyone can live with it. We can present to the board X decision with the potential of opposing views. This can be accomplished over the next several meetings.*
 - *Doug wondered how we arrive at that without more of a formal vote. Perhaps someone goes back to the board with concerns and asking for more information. Eric is willing to bring some questions to the board.*
- *Gary wondered about whether this should be a committee with the ability to vote.*
 - *Further explanation on the decision the school board made to change this back.*
- *Can we find out if an advisory team can have a vote? Some of us don't know why not.*
- *To the point of limiting membership, there is an onus on the people to come and be prepared so that we are not always rehashing moving forward.*
- *David Towle said that Robert Edgar may be able to help clarify some of the questions as he is very knowledgeable about board business and has created some incredible things for the school and the SU.*
- *Marvin shared that there was a lot of information in the April/May meeting that the 32 million dollar information was incorrect. He stated that the architect shared incorrect information.*
 - *Larry asked him to go through the report and notate the things he knows are wrong. From there we could get the architects to respond to Marvin's dispute.*
 - *Eric said that if we can verify those inaccuracies, that may be a recommendation to the board.*
 - *Larry will get the report to Marvin*
- *Next Date must have 6 members minimum - Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 5:30 and Wednesday, September 28, 2022*
 - *At the Sept. 14 meeting we will add any additional members and cap it there.*
- *For next meeting we will advertise by: Cal Rec article, Front Porch Forum (Kaity), School Messenger (Sarah/Larry), Facebook (Randy), sign on the green, Marty's/Hastings/North Danville/Post Office (Bruce), website (Sarah/Larry). This will all be identical messaging.*

End of Meeting

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

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