

Pre-K Through 5 And Eagle Academy School Pre-Referendum Building Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 29, 2025
Available on YouTube

The Pre-K Through 5 and Eagle Academy School Pre-Referendum Building Committee held a meeting on October 29, 2025 at Enfield Town Hall, 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT.

1. CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by Tina LeBlanc

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tina LeBlanc, Christine DeBonee, Lauren Andrews, Bob Cressotti, Janet Cushman, John Dague, Steve Moccio, Amanda Pickett, Charlotte Riley, Jeff Rousseau, Jaclyn Valley, Jeff Wyszynski, Justin Hopkins, Chris Cykley

MEMBERS ABSENT

Randy Daigle, Gina Cekala, Jim Nasuta, Scott Ryder, Antonia Ciaverella

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Bob Cressotti to Approve Meeting Minutes of October 8, 2025

Seconded by Charlotte Riley

Motion passes by a show of hands

4. ARCHITECTS PRESENTATION

Jeff states there are 2 handouts for this evening. The top is the update and the second is a snapshot of the time during the community conversation, with the Mentimeter and the results. We will work with Antonia and the district to republish this.

Steve states it is already in the newsletter. We embedded the QR code and did a recap of the community conversation. That will be going out next week.

Jeff states tonight we will give an update on the design team activities. We will spend time talking about the community conversation and if you've heard any feedback since. We will talk about the planning options and refinements. We collected the questions during the community conversation. I think it makes sense to make a frequently asked question list so we can post that to the website. We will go over some of the preferred options. I pulled the slides on where we basically landed at the last meeting. We will spend time talking about the preparations and next steps. At this point, we are waiting on the October enrollment numbers, so the demographer can do their projections. The plan is for them to get those and do all the updates and come to our next meeting which is on November 19th to present the findings. Everything that we presented up until this date with all the options, if you remember way back when we started with a 5%-10% increase in the enrollment, use those numbers now for the planning matrix, what I'd like to do at this juncture is we will wait and get those numbers and there is another with Dr. Prada and we can compare the data and then select where we think the numbers are going to be. Then we will go back through the options and update. That's where we are in the overall planning process. We will talk a little about next steps, we are to a point where we can talk about cost modeling, logistics. There will be at the next community conversation which will be virtually in the middle of December. My suspicion is that folks will have more questions such as renovate to new, new, timing, cost and reimbursement. Ideally we will have all the updated information. Slide shown of overall schedule, which we are on track. Our next meeting which is November 19th. Once we have our enrollment data we can refining and honing in on preferred options. As far as schedule, we are right on track. A summary of the community conversation, why we embarked on this masterplan. There are 4 main components, the enrollment, infrastructure, educational programming and

the engagement. We are talking about 10-20 years and then generation planning projects. Next slide is history of when the buildings were built. We are looking at a Spring referendum. We plugged in 2026-2032 to put things in context about the length of time these projects take to complete. The next 3 slides summarize the components of what we presented at the community conversation. What we are trying to do is set the baseline of understanding of existing conditions, challenges that exists both physically and programmatically in the buildings and talk about feedback and engagement loop that we've had with the district and the teachers. Then start talking about the plan options. We tried to show conditions to convey the quality of current status of the buildings. Next slides talks about our engagements. One activity coming up is the think tank. I know you've had several but we'd like to have another one. We have that tentatively planned for November 12th and we sent out a list of who we typically invite. We like to get a well rounded group.

Amanda asks how stuck are we on the date? It's parent/teacher conferences.

Jeff states not at all, we can look at other dates and times. We will coordinate that through the superintendents office. We need about 2 hours for the activities.

Amanda states it's important to get feedback. It's important to know the purpose of the meeting and who to get at the table.

Jeff states we will send out this PDF flyer that captures some of what you're asking. We have a sample list of titles and roles that we typically see involved. The second section is about understanding programmatically and the last section was the table relative to the discussion. Justin opened this door and tried to explain what we're trying to resolve. We're trying to give the community a good foundation of the scope, what the condition is and what we might be looking at for options. Then we had a Q&A session which I thought was good. Then I summarized them. There might be some options for the attendance zones, when does that occur? There was good questions about when it might occur. It's likely to occur at the tale end of the plan. Very valid questions. The idea of this plan is to limit disruption to the students. Other questions were about renovate as new. We need to articulate the difference between new and renovate as new. There was questions about length of construction, and reimbursement and how does that 15% apply? Which I think Randy did a good job explaining that. Questions on sustainability/best use of sites and buildings. Our answer was how do we best utilize existing school sites. Good question on sustainable strategies. That's a question as we move into cost estimates. We can dig into that a little deeper and explain. You have to follow a high performance building standard. Question was asked does state school funding rely on federal funding? It does not. We're not relying on any federal grants on any of our projects at the moment. Questions about durability, which I thought was a good one. That was the spirit of the questions asked.

Tina states there was a comment from Scott who couldn't be here tonight, he wants to know if we can formalize the do-nothing/band aids number for the public? There was once a presentation to the Council on if we did nothing, how much it would repairs cost and we would not get any reimbursement. His concern is a handful of people would vote for just do repairs vs. new buildings. People need to know that it is not reimbursable. It would tens of millions of dollars to get these 60-70 year old buildings up to code.

Jeff states sure, that makes sense.

Lauren states all of her students will have graduated by the time this is finished. Parents are interested, but in their mind it doesn't affect them. It does, because to do nothing it is going to cost you more as a taxpayer.

Amanda states taxes are a hot topic, so we need to get that out there.

Jeff states the next section is reviewing the preferred option or direction, I want to go over this handout. I think the word cloud is helpful to us to understand what content we need to cover in our next presentation. We often see safety, capacity, transportation. Some of the other questions were location of Pre-K. We will continue to update this, it is currently open.

Charlotte asked if the engagement was high and now it's dropping off?

Jeff states I didn't dig into that detail. We will leave this open and give you an update at the next meeting. This evening the content is the same, I think where we landed was an option that is basically around the preferred 4 school option and to adaptively reuse the remaining buildings. This slide shows the numbers represent the sequence. This is draft form, the sequence can change and the location can change. The strategy would remain. This isn't set in stone. We are trying to convey a strategy. We went over a lot of different options and explain one more time. We might change a sequence. In this slide Memorial is first, that is because of the conditions. The question is do you do it in phases or not? The population density is going to effect this slide, affordability and tax impact. Most communities don't pull the bond until they hit the white bar (construction). First we want to get the demographic and population at the same time we can start talk modeling.

Amanda states I'm confused about the think tank on the 12th, but we already have a plan as we are all agreeing to this. Are we sure this is our plan if we haven't talked to everybody. My next one is I am going to continuously push about preschool. I am totally okay with integrating special ed preschool in our 4 buildings. The outcomes that we see coming from Stowe is that preschool is a different animal. I believe we can provide continuity to our specialized students in their home schools but preschool, HeadStart, Steam and our partnership with ECDC I think we can expand. We can only expand if we have a plan and apply for those seats with the State. I think there is a conversation around what are we truly doing with preschool and the town conversation about ECDC. I am more of an advocate for expanding Stowe as a preschool site and the timeline for ECDC, Stowe is last on the list-ish.

Jeff states this is what I heard as the preferred option to date. It's not set in stone, what could change this is the demographics. If they come back substantially lower that will change some of the thought process. To answer your question on the think tank, we would talk about the four vs. the prek during the think tank. This isn't set in stone, we're going to let the feedback and data and what is best educationally come to us. What is best in a financial perspective? What is happening in your community with the enrollment. It's the community and this groups decision. I want to be clear, this is what I heard to date.

Amanda states preschool has a very unique funding requirement, staffing and we've done some strategic ways of using funding and staffing. I'm not sure if we truly explored, looking at the numbers, can we have specialized programs in the schools? What would the capacity of Stowe be and will it open up enough space and give ECDC enough room and just renovate Stowe. I am asking for some additional creativity and willingness to explore that.

Lauren asks do the demographers look at whole numbers for the district or could they drill down to our programs and how they've been expanding and increasing over the years? That is a huge factor.

Jeff states they can, I have to ask if they are right now. They will look at things like outplacement. They will look at the specialized education programs.

Lauren states that could make or break what we do. Our programs have exponentially increased in the last six years.

Charlotte asks can they project Pre-K numbers by itself?

Jaclyn asks can they predict birthrate, how specific can they get? People are talking about universal Pre-K. Every child does not have to go to public Pre-K, there is another whole sub-set. How many public preschool public seats do we have available for 4 year olds? This is done through Early Start. I'm wondering if the demographers have access to in some capacity? I think it's really hard to predict how many seat. A consideration is part day to full day. That would double your classrooms. A lot of this is unknown, but can they predict it?

Jeff states I don't want to speak for his capabilities, Pre-K hasn't been as much of a conversation as it is today. Does it make sense to have a meeting with Mike and folks from specialized ed programs and Pre-K to see what he can include in the analysis.

Amy states our only birth indicator would be Birth to Three. Students coming out of Birth to Three, if those needs are high they would be coming to our integrated program. The Birth to Three numbers would be indicative of the number of students coming up.

Tina states the concern is the demographic study for what we don't know. I think it's something the demographers are already facing.

Jeff states let us take these comments back to him. It is important to us to make sure we get it right.

Amanda states the challenge we are facing here is dollars and cents, what is best for our community and how do we get this through to our community if we don't get as much of a percentage reimbursement.

Steve states Stowe doesn't qualify as a school. Shared spaces are problems for reimbursement. We confirmed it when we did the roof replacement for Alcorn. Stowe is not a school, it's a program, it has to be used greater than 50%. You will only get a percentage of reimbursement because it's not 100% a school.

Amanda states if we are going to be expanding preschool spots in Stowe, would we get to a number of EPS space?

Tina states this is going to be on the table until we have the numbers.

Steve states it shares the concerns that we need to have another meeting.

Jaclyn states we need to have an idea of how many want full day or part day. Not everyone wants to go to public pre-k. We need to know what the need is.

Tina states we need to go to all the daycares and home daycares to get more people involved.

Jeff states we will communicate that back to Mike. The next slide is the strategies. We will continue to show options of fields and parking. WE did include the conversation relative to Enfield Street and what the possibilities are. Reimbursement rate for Central Office would be half. Some components of this building could qualify. Once we get the report, I will circulate to committee. We need to have a meeting with Finance. I'm sure Randy will get that in place. For Eagle, you're going to need a space waiver. The math doesn't work for that programs needs. That would likely be a special legislation request.

Tina states we have 2 representatives that are running for town council. If both elected, they should be on this committee. We will know more after election.

Jeff states I am happy to bring them up to speed.

Amy asks about the 15% reimbursement for prek and 15% for sped. How does the reimbursement work when it's prek students in specialized programs? Is it not specialized because it's considered integrated?

Chris states I think it's just prek and that's it. That additional reimbursement would be applied to the entire building.

Just states in another district, they qualified for the 15% for prek. The other school there was classrooms that were specialized programs. We weren't able to get 30%.

Jeff states it is worth asking for clarification.

Steve states you don't want to be late to the game applying for the additional 15%.

Tina states Scott and I are working on a Facebook page. It is not out yet due to election madness. We will post to other groups. We will make sure that happens.

Jeff states our takeaway tonight is November 12th is conferences and work with the district to get a new date. We will work on Scott's question. We will work on the tax impact, affordability and some of the community conversation pieces.

Tina states the new board of ed get sworn in on the 18th, and the town council is the 10th. Next meeting is November 19th. The resolution for this committee is elected official focused. That is a conversation I will have with Randy.

5. COMMENTS

- a. Committee Member Comments
- b. Liaison Member Comments
- c. Good to the Order

6. Motion to Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn made by Amanda Pickett
Seconded by Charlotte Riley
Motion passes by a show of hands

Adjourned at 7:20 PM

Submitted by Ellen Smith