

Pre-K Through 5 And Eagle Academy School Pre-Referendum Building Committee
Special Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2026
Available on YouTube

The Pre-K Through 5 and Eagle Academy School Pre-Referendum Building Committee held a special meeting on April 8, 2026 at Enfield Town Hall, 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT.

1. CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Randy Daigle

2. ROLL CALL
MEMBERS PRESENT

Randy Daigle, Christine DeBonee, Lauren Andrews, Janet Cushman, John Dague, Kate Flanagan, Danielle Girard, Dean Gousse, Steven Moccio, Charlotte Riley, Jaclyn Valley, Jeff Wyszynski, Antonia Ciaverella

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tina LeBlanc, Gina Cekala, Bob Cressotti, Kelsey McGuire-Bruce, Amanda Pickett, Marie Pyzner, Scott Ryder, Justin Hopkins, Christoher Cykley

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Christine DeBonee to Approve Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2026

Seconded by Lauren Andrews

Motion passes by a show of hands

4. ARCITECT PRESENTATION

Jeff reviews handouts, handout includes updated activities related to the grant application. I would like to walk through this to give you an update on the activities. Item 1A under phase 1 environmental. Eagle Environmental is planned to visit the sites of Hazardville, Eli and Parkman on April 13th. On April 15 they will be at Crandall and Barnard. To recap Phase 1 it is a visual observation and historical data research for environmental related to the sites. It's part of form 053 for the state grant application. It's a checklist items but a due diligence item, looking for any major items related to the site as far as environmental conditions, such as oil tanks. With that comes a questionnaire and thanks to John for starting to fill those out, required as part of the grant application. We are collecting all the previous historical materials related to the site environmental. Everything is on track. Thank you Randy for getting the approvals at the last town council meeting. The educational specifications, over the last 3-4 weeks we generated the ed specs based on conversations we have had to date. We've submitted a draft to the board of education. The board of ed came back with some comments. Those were incorporated into documents that were dated today for all 5 grant applications and those were approved at our previous meeting with the board of ed. Your next BOE regular meeting is on the 28th, approval of BOE minutes, the approval of the resolutions. That is a major milestone when it comes to a grant application. Concurrent with our last meeting, I gave you an update that we began coordination with Gilbane as a support of construction cost estimates. We need to submit budgetary information to the state in what is called a unformat estimate. It is basically by the components of the building, like steel, site work, concrete work. We spent the last 3-4 weeks with Gilbane giving them all the information, coordinating with them on costs related to cost, not only the construction but the soft costs, and validating all of the numbers. There was some questions at our board of ed meeting earlier and we're going to prepare some real cost data related to adjacent communities, and what those costs were for those projects to put substance to the numbers. We are confident in the budgets we put together. Those have been validated by Chris and by Gilbane. The next step is to break it down into those details, then upload it to the state website, create a PDF and post to the grant application. We had coordination meetings related to the presentation to the town council. We are scheduled for April 20th to give a presentation similar that we gave to the board of ed as far as a high level summary of how we got to where we did, the actual plan, the 5 projects, and what we're asking the town council to do is approve, basically authorizations that are related to the grant application. They authorize the superintendent to submit a grant, they authorize schematic design. There is no costs or activities related to it.

Authorization of the building committee. My presumption is that the town will take care of the language related to those resolutions. If you need something from us, let us know. Chris gave an example, I think from JFK the authorization to submit a grant and to set a referendum date. It's just the date we need. You can probably look at your last project for those resolutions. What this means to the town council is they're just formalities that you need to document our part of the grant and it's not authorizing anybody to do anything or spend any money. We're not starting schematic design, it's just resolutions. When we have our meeting on April 20th, if the resolutions are taken up at that meeting we need the certified meeting minutes. There was one question that we presented this evening to the board of education was if you don't get the space waiver what is the plan of action? So we'll put a little more definitive response around that because there's a couple of different avenues you can travel.

Danielle asks as far as the referendum date, is that going to be decided here or town council side?

Randy states it's going to be based on our decision, our recommendation. They would follow through with whatever we decide on. In the last 3-4 weeks there are some things that I will bring up tonight.

Jeff states we need a date and the statutory requirement is we need to submit the results prior to November 15th. We are getting close to the point where we should ask for the grant application bid events. At some point in the near future we should be asking for those to be opened so that we can start populating them.

Steve states John and he have a plan for that when they return from vacation, to do that the week of April 20th.

Jeff states we can help anyway if you'd like us to. Next item after the electronic portal is special legislation which I think everyone is aware of what needs to happen. The tax impacts, based on the budgets that we have been presenting has been completed. The last piece is the community engagement materials. We gave some examples and we circulated the PDF's. I know everyone is planning it out as far as starting. If you have any other ideas, comments or suggestions, send them along.

Steve states a reporter from CT Insider has reached out a couple of different times. I send them to the district website. She was happy with that and she was going to watch the livestream of the special board of education meeting and watch the recording after that.

Danielle states for the one you showed us for the tax, the draft one, is that on the website or has then been sent out? When I had shown it to my caucus and said this is what we're thinking about putting out, is there any adjustments? I had taken a picture and sent it to them because I didn't have anything else. They would like to see it because they had some questions about the top and money wise, the \$35 for the pizza and those kinds of things. Just to make sure that we're really standing out to the community.

Jeff states Mr. Wilcox prepared that document, I don't know if anything from the town perspective is changed that would modify that document.

Danielle states the breakdown, the one where you made it. The summary the 2-sided one.

Randy states it is not on the website yet, as it is a draft.

Randy state we have some outstanding invoices.

Motion made by Christine DeBonee to Approve Tecton Architects Invoice Number 48616, dated October 31, 2025, in the amount of \$100,238.00 for Professional Services

Seconded by Lauren Andrews

Motion passes by a show of hands

Motion made by Christine DeBonee to Approve Tecton Architects Invoice Number 48617, dated October 31, 2025, in the amount of \$4,299.45 for Printing, Reprographics, Mileage
Seconded by Charlotte Riley
Motion passes by a show of hands

Motion made by Christine DeBonee to Approve Tecton Architects Invoice Number 48790, dated December 31, 2025, in the amount of \$27,237.00 for Professional Services
Seconded by Lauren Andrews
Motion passes by a show of hands

Motion made by Christine DeBonee to Approve Tecton Architects Invoice Number 48792, dated December 31, 2025, in the amount of \$107.10 for Professional Services and Mileage
Seconded by Lauren Andrews
Motion passes by a show of hands

Randy states our next schedule meeting is for April 29, 2026. Tentatively we have a special referendum dated September 22nd. Reason being we didn't want to compete with anything else in November that may have a cost affiliated with it. We thought a stand alone would be more advantageous. We were hoping there would be enough information out there to get positive votes. I was told last week that the only thing that is going to be on November is the referendum and the charter revision, which is not a dollar amount. Road is not going to be part of it. I'm opening this up for discussion, do we want to give them a little bit more time, have it at a general election? It will give more time for the PAC to get out there. The only thing that it does, is it delays the start of it. I truly would like to have everyone's option.

Dean states he highly believes in the project. However, in light of many things that have happened over the last few months and things being hidden, dark and things like that, I think this need to completely be out in the open and part of the regular procedure. We have never had a referendum vote that's been out of band, meaning not on election day. I think we should stick with putting this on the November election rather than a special election where people think we're trying to force something through and avoid competing or accountability to most of the town.

Janet states she would agree with keeping it as part of the November election especially if the roads is not on there, because that was going to be a very costly thing and a very competing idea of a project. If we have confirmation that that's off, then I would recommend just keeping with the November election.

Charlotte states I was definitely for it being by itself when there was obviously competing things because too many referendum questions and one has gotten the public confused before, turning over the ballot and all that. Now that we hear that it's just going to be this and the charter, then we will save some money by not having to pay for the special election. People will be more apt to realize that there is a question. Then they won't accuse people of trying to push something through without everybody's knowledge of it. It will give the PAC more time. I think at this point, the logical decision would be to do that. We didn't really talk about the September thing like we did the Spring date that we were going to do and had people hyped up about it. At this point, I think the November makes sense more than September. I was definitely on the September track before when it was three.

Randy states one of things you touch upon have a special one, it would have cost roughly around \$16,000 and it would have been getting volunteers for a 13 hour commitment to man the polls. We have found in the past having a special election for a referendum to use every poll station not 1 or 2 because then people that are further away may say oh, it is over there. There was a lot involved in it. Our decision before was based on the unknown of other and competing. From what I am being told from councilor, mayor and town manager that the charter is the only thing that is going to be on it.

Jaclyn states it is a great opportunity from the families of the youngest kiddos and for us to encourage them to get out and vote in local elections, this feels like a very connected reason where they can feel committed to whatever the outcome is. We also partner with KITE to teach the parents about the importance of voting and offer them activities for the kids to do at the polls. It might be a bigger turnout from the littles.

Kate states that she would agree with November at this point in time. I think having the two options if we didn't have other things on it, I think in November we're going to get more people at the polls whereas September we would have had fewer people at the polls, because they're going to vote one, maybe not the other. We want to make sure we get as many people when their opinion, their opportunity. I'd go with November.

Danielle states I agree, that's been the consensus with my caucus when speaking with them. Some of the town council members have reached out personally and said can we push for November? I spoke to Tina previously and that was her consensus as well. It's a smarter idea, it does pull those other families in. Now we have to get KITE involved and get them to bring those packets.

Lauren states I agree November, I think at this point there's a lot of people that still don't really know what's going on. Correct me if I'm wrong, the PAC can't do anything until we have a date. The sooner we can confirm a date and we can start getting the word out there. I think September 22nd, not every school is having their open house by that date. You're really going to miss some of the schools if we do September.

Randy states we need to have the date and we need to have the town council approval to go for it. At that point we can legally form a PAC.

Christine states I agree with November. My one hurdle was the roads because more people in town use the roads. If you have a dollar amount on one and a dollar amount on the other, people are going to say I use the roads, they really need to be fixed. I'm not going to use the schools. Knowing that the roads aren't going to be on there, I think November would be the best time for sure.

Randy states I wanted to get everyone's opinion. We talked about it, we did our due diligence to determine why and when with the facts that we had at the time. Now that the facts have changed and hopefully don't change again, I appreciate it.

Dean states even if they do change again, I believe we should be in November and it should. It's the taxpayers that are paying for this and they should have a say and be able to compare the two.

Steve states the only thing I would say with that is that this to happen. I'm not even going to sugarcoat it. The buildings are falling apart. We lost a pipe this week. This has to happen. I wish there was more people here because my office is hearing both sides of this. How it's going to happen and how they are going to do everything they can to make it not happen. Politics has to be shoved out the door on this. It has to happen because the kids need this to happen.

Dean states it does have to happen, but it's not up to us.

Steve states if you put two items on a referendum and one says \$40 million and the other one says \$220 million, they're not going to vote for the \$220. That's why the September was the way to go. Now that it's gone, I'm absolutely November because you're going to get more people out to vote in November. If I have figured anything out about this town is, whatever side, you can't say anything was hidden. This will be during a regular town vote, we're going to push is out like crazy. This is by far, in my opinion, a bipartisan product because there was a republican running the town when it started and we were asked to come back and explain why we needed to do this. Now there are democrats running the town, and we're still moving forward. Both sides can take credit. This has to happen and it will be life changing for the town. I would be more than happy to go wherever you need me to go to say that to people, I do somewhat have an outside perspective. Do what is right for the kids.

Randy states I have been asked what if it fails, what is the alternative? What is plan B? There is not plan B.

Steve states plan B will be a city of portables.

Randy states I think it's up to \$800 million to do basically what we're doing now with the majority of it not being reimbursed. That's not designing for the future, that's putting the buildings back, getting new roofs, windows and mechanical systems. Three of these schools aren't structurally sound. There is no band aid that we could even apply to these buildings. We would have to waste another year putting those 2 or 3 buildings on a referendum. In the meantime, we're losing accreditation There is no plan B. It's the town's fault that we're here. It's not anyone sitting here. It's the towns fault, not doing proper maintenance with these schools. They do a roof on whatever has the most buckets underneath. The don't have a master plan, one year we're doing this one, next year we're doing that one. We have schools that we were going to be in a part of this, like Parkman and they were going to redo the roof. I said you do the roof for \$1.2 million dollars, that's \$1.2 million we don't get as reimbursable when we tear that school down. I was saying, why am I telling you this? We have 2 other schools, Enfield Street School that need roofs. Since we're not really doing anything to the 3r phase schools other than maybe the town taking them over, Can we do any of these roofs as part of this, so it will be reimbursable?

Steve states my understanding, we had the roof-referendum you have money allocated through that, we would have to do a separate roof replacement construction grant, which would be reimbursable. I would do it now while it's still a school.

Danielle states at our last joint facility meeting we had was the conversation of we're going to stop with Parkman, have them take a look and see what a five year plan can be for the roofs that we know the schools are going to be torn down to look at that. How much is it going to cost us? We were talking about the next ones to be done, as far as roofs are Stowe and ESS. It doesn't matter if it's a town or school building, it's a roof-erendum for the whole town. It's a facility.

Randy states when I caught wind about Parkman several months ago being put back out when I had a look at the drawings and I talked to them and said instead of putting this whole thing out you can repair for about \$300,000. There are alternatives to give us a little bit of time. I'd rather lose \$300,000 when we knock down the school than \$1.1 million.

Danielle states they gave us a projection, this meeting was in February. From the notes I took, it was a five year plan of 50 to 70,000 and there was 2 schools, Parkman and Crandall is what we were looking at to try to get a five year plan. We haven't had another meeting. We do have the information, we have the meeting minutes . Now that the joint facilities is more of the roof committee, that is basically what we are focusing on.

Randy states that is one of 30 things that is wrong with these schools. Why aren't they master planning the exterior windows? Why aren't they master planning the mechanical systems? About 5 years ago they were going to redo some of the mechanical systems. I asked them why? You can't even open some of these windows? Your roofs are leaking and you're going to do a mechanical system? You're not going to be able to balance this thing. Why am I telling the town this? The should be doing this, not the citizens of this town.

Danielle states that was our first meeting of joint facilities.

Randy states 12 years ago we had a master plan and it never got implemented. Then it started again and it never got implemented.

Danielle states the master plan that we saw was from 2015.

Randy states we dug through this town we found existing drawings, we did everything we brought up the master plan. This was 12 years ago and it never got implemented. Like you say, nine years ago and it never got implemented again.

Dean states one of my key points, and hopefully this passes that there is a maintenance schedule that is part of this that we can go back on and say you knew because fixing it when it breaks isn't a plan, that just reactive. In five years we're going to have to replace these windows, let's start budgeting now.

Randy states even maintaining buildings we just built. At Enfield High School we gave the town a computer program that all they have to do is go to a room, hit the light fixture and it'll tell you the manufacturer, the warranty, the number and all the information. Not once has this town ever used it. They've called me several times, do I have drawings? I gave you my 582 drawings that I had of the school. We've had items that were brought to town council for replacing mechanical systems door at \$112,000 because the town never called on the warranty on it. We had a ceiling that collapsed in the kitchen that they were using beams to hold it up because a leaked happened. Instead of calling the manufacturer the town decided they would try to fix it. When they did try to fix it and call the manufacturer they said this was doctored up, the warranty is void. Even when we do build it and I hate to say this, because this is the reason why a lot of people don't vote for stuff, because we can't maintain them. Having a new school that has a 20 year warranty, that'll help it. There is no plan b, these schools are in dire straits. The town needs to step up.

5. COMMENTS

a. Committee Member Comments

Christine states I have opening day for Enfield Little League on April 25th, there are 350 kids there plus parents, grandparents, siblings. I feel like we should have some sort of a presence there. I don't know if that is something we could do?

Steve states I know Scott is planning things behind the scenes. He's waiting until he can officially go. I think giving him the heads up of when it is. As of April 20th at whatever time they take it, the PAC can start.

Randy states we can start getting things rolling and then have all the material ready so when we do get the approval we can reach out.

Christine states I know we have posters. I'll reach out to Scott.

Randy states as a parent and taxpayers, we can do it. We don't have to have the PAC but the PAC is the way to go.

b. Liaison Member Comments

c. Good to the Order

6. Motion to Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn made by Charlotte Riley

Seconded by Lauren Andrews

Motion passes by a show of hands

Adjourned at 7:50 PM

Submitted by Ellen Smith

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