

PK-5 Elementary Schools and Eagle Academy Therapeutic Day
School Pre-Referendum Committee
Organizational Meeting
Town Hall - Scitico Conference Room
Wednesday, February 12, 2025 – 6:00 PM

The PK-5 Elementary Schools and Eagle Academy Therapeutic Day School Pre-Referendum Committee held a meeting on February 12, 2025 at Enfield Town Hall, 820 Enfield Street Enfield, CT.

Call to Order Meeting was called to order at 6:01PM by Ken Nelson

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Bob Cressotti, Randy Daigle, Jim Nasuta, Jeff Rousseau, Amanda Pickett, Charlotte Riley, Lauren Andrews, Kate Flanagan, Tina LeBlanc, Christine DeBonee, Gina Cekala, Ken Nelson

2. Election of Officers

- a. Nomination of Chair – Jim Nasuta makes a motion to nominate Randy Daigle, Jeff Rousseau seconded. Motion passes by a show of hands.
- b. Nomination of Vice Chair – Randy Daigle makes a motion to nominate Tina LeBlanc. Seconded by Gina Cekala. Motion passes by a show of hands
- c. Nomination of Secretary – Randy Daigle makes a motion to nominate Christine DeBonee. Seconded by Gina Cekala. Motion passes by a show of hands.

3. Discussion of Priorities and Objectives

Mr. Daigle spoke about how he has chaired a lot of committees in Enfield in the past 26 years. He spoke about his background, having subcommittees within the committee, getting the public involved and educated about what we'll be doing, and how he is looking for people that can give advice and help all of us along the way

Councilwoman Cekala stated that we have school modernization reports we should utilize. She asked that if people don't have the information to please ask to have it distributed.

Mr. Daigle spoke about sending everyone this information so we can have for the next meeting.

Ms. Pickett spoke about figuring out our priorities and next steps. She also stated that we did pay for experts to do work on this and we should take that into account. Ms. Pickett also agreed with a subcommittee structure.

Councilman Cressotti spoke about adding Eagle Academy to this project and how we need to spend a good amount of time on this project. He stated that our ultimate goal is getting this to referendum and getting it to pass.

Ms. Pickett spoke about looking into an updated government budget around pre K, and wondered if we should include the updated projections in our decision making.

Councilwoman Cekala agreed about new rules and guidelines around reimbursement rates from the state.

Ms. LeBlanc suggested we work with someone who is well versed in marketing. She spoke about Scott Ryder being able to give us some tips.

Mr. Daigle spoke about organizing a Political Action Committee (PAC) in order to do fundraising for this project.

Ms. LeBlanc spoke about staff and public buy-in, and mentioned that other towns are calling Enfield for services like Adult Ed or enrolling in Eagle Academy and Enfield being a regional hub. She stated that it's about academic and support spaces for the kids. She also spoke about this committee having meetings at different schools so they can all see inside the schools.

Ms. Riley asked at what point do we go out for bid.

Mr. Daigle spoke about having an architect that Enfield has on call, Russell & Dawson. He explained what happens after referendum is passed. He spoke about selling the project to the public with education and facts. He talked about how Russell & Dawson is more geared towards the hospitality industry and about the reimbursement rate of JFK.

Ms. Riley spoke about HVAC reimbursement rates that are offered state wide.

Ms. LeBlanc speaks about getting the K-5 school principals pain points when we visit their school. Stated we should coordinate with John Dague.

Mr. Daigle agreed and asked about speaking to teachers and custodians as well. He spoke about figuring out exactly what this committee wants done.

Councilwoman Cekala suggests John Dague comes to present to the committee again. She would like updates.

Ms. LeBlanc talked about going back to the K-5 model and how it is an option as parents and teachers aren't happy with the K-2, 3-5 model we currently have.

Mr. Daigle spoke about the potential of the state going to a universal pre-K model, and how we need to account for the unknown.

Councilman Nasuta spoke about looking at how much schools we will need with the K-5 model.

Mr. Daigle spoke about how much it will cost to put bandaids on the buildings and could it be cheaper to build new with state reimbursement rates.

Ms. Pickett discussed not knowing how many schools we will need. We need to look at enrollment now, projected enrollment, redistricting, and the pros and cons of having a very large elementary school.

Mr. Daigle stated that he always wants to have public forums to get the public involved with their opinions.

Ms. Andrews spoke about shifting to the K-5 model, redistricting, and thinking about how parents and teachers feel about the changes.

Mr. Daigle wanted to reiterate that if anyone on this committee knows anyone that can help us to get them on our agenda as a committee guest.

Ms. Pickett spoke about making sure we have different mixed use spaces for a collaboration with the before and after school programs.

Mr. Daigle talked about the specific reimbursement rates if the town can use it or the space is just for the schools.

Ms. DeBonne spoke about the first time JFK went out for referendum and why it failed.

Councilwoman Cekala spoke about needing a schedule.

Ms. Riley suggested we have deadlines and dates for specific items.

Mr. Daigle decided that by next meeting we need to have a list of defined charges and we'll contact John Dague.

4. Discuss and Approve Schedule of Meetings

Next meeting will be Wednesday February 21st at 6:30 and we will meet at Eli Whitney.

5. Adjournment

Mr. Daigle made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Pickett seconded the motion

Motion passes by a show of hands at 7:21 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Christine DeBonee

Secretary