

## **FACILITIES TASK FORCE III**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, August 16, 2007**

**Florence Roche Elementary School – Cafeteria  
6:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Voting Members: Bill McDonald, Nancy Bugbee, Maryanne Squeglia, Walter Alterisio, Gary Hoggund, Dave Johnson, Lisa Chau, Betsy Dolan, Karen Lofgren, Mihran Kohesian, Elena Lazaris  
Nonvoting Members: Ruthann Goguen, Debra Diggins, Steve Byrne, Dr. Alan Genovese

Before the start of the official business meeting, the Task Force took a tour of Florence Roche Elementary School, led by Steve Byrne, Director of District Facilities. The notes from that tour are as follows:

#### **TOUR OF FLORENCE ROCHE ELEMENTARY**

- School was built in 1951. Back part of the school was added on in 1988(?).
- There are two boiler rooms – one provides steam heat, the other – forced hot water.
- Main problem with heating system has been heat ‘control’. The District has replaced univent heaters (as needed), over the last three years in different classrooms/rooms. Each room now has its own thermostat; this has helped with heat control.
- The modulars have their own separate heating units – gas-fired, totally self-contained heating *and* a/c units.
- In first wing (in same hallway/wing as main office), the bathroom toilets and fixtures need to be replaced.
- The main/overall problem, stated by Mr. Byrne, in this entire building is plumbing, but costs to update/replace certain things have been kept to a minimum and are within the parameters of the regular maintenance budget; not a facilities issue.
- The modulars, at present, are structurally fine. They have had some roofing repairs done in the past. Lifespan of modulars: 10-15- years. Some of the Florence Roche modulars *have* reached or *will be* reaching that benchmark soon.
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Bill McDonald, FTF Chair, called the business meeting to order at 7:43 p.m.

Minutes were approved from the July 19 meeting, with some minor edits.

It was decided that the question of how the FTF goes forward with an independent study should be an item for the next meeting’s agenda. Some questions/ideas surrounding the FTF’s own independent study:

- What will the state require re: number/statistics/information from the FTF and what will the state fund
- The FTF decided that it doesn't *have* to, right now, hire someone to do a study; it has committee members who are collecting much of the pertinent data at present. The FTF could recommend, in the near future, that it *validate* its own projections/statistics/studies by hiring an outside firm to conduct its own study.
- The FTF needs to have a better understanding between itself and the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA).
- Bill McDonald volunteered to contact the MSBA. The committee needs to know the parameters on how the MSBA calculates reimbursement, how it 'places' school districts on its list, etc. Dr. Genovese believed that the FTF could get someone from the MSBA to come to Groton and attend one of its meetings, giving a presentation on how they operate.

It was agreed that two subcommittee reports – one on Prescott and its building concerns/future (Art Campbell, Elena Lazaris), and the other independent study (Gary Hogle and Dave Johnson), on enrollment projections/town demographics - would be rescheduled for the September meeting of the FTF. It was stated that the FTF would need to rely on these two specific subcommittees for detailed and relevant information *before* it made any major decisions regarding any District facility or the building of a new facility.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.