

**Meeting Minutes: Town Council Committee
Education and School Matters**
Monday, April 25, 2016 7:00 PM
Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber

Present: Councillors Michael Dattoli, chair; Aaron Dushku, vice chair; Lisa Feltner, secretary

Also Present: Superintendent Dr. Jean Fitzgerald, and School Committee members John Portz, Liz Yusem, Guido Giudotti, Kendra Foley, Candace Miller, Mark Sideris;
continued below

AGENDA: Discuss Current Enrollment Projections and Physical Space for the District

The school district recently hired DecisionInsite to conduct two enrollment projections; they are enrollment impact specialists. Preliminary data is expected in May, and subsequent meetings are expected between DecisionInsite, John Portz and Steve Magoon. Dr. Fitzgerald expressed gratitude and emphasized the importance of working with Mr. Magoon in gathering residential development data. A follow-up study will be conducted in September/October to validate projections made this spring. The contract includes taking into account birthrates and includes GIS mapping services.

Dr. Fitzgerald stated that a more robust School Facilities Long Range Master Planning Study would include consideration of the DecisionInsite findings; the current RFP is open through May 4 with an anticipated project completion date in September 2016. For example, the Scope of Work for the master planning study includes:

1. Examine population trends and past, present and future student enrollments;
2. Assess Watertown's present educational facilities in light of enrollment projections and the district's present and future educational programs;
3. Conduct appropriate site evaluation study;
4. Develop cost-effective options designed to address Watertown's present and future space, facility, and make recommendations regarding staffing needs;
5. Conduct stakeholder meetings.

[For background, see the March 2014 [school facilities report](#) - Schools Facilities Assessment by Oudens Ellos, which recommends a comprehensive planning study of the entire District.]

Regarding stakeholder meetings, Councilor Dushku asked about what was envisioned. He suggested that the town convene a Task Force for school space needs as other neighboring towns have done. Dr. Fitzgerald was of the opinion that a Task Force should be something that we form to address medium- to long-term solutions but that in the near future, the town staff should be making decisions. She also mentioned that should the Statement Of Interest be approved for an MSBA project, that a multi-stakeholder Task Force would be a requirement. The expected time frame for an MSBA decision on the SOI is this December.

Dr. Fitzgerald spoke on the possibility of utilizing modular classrooms to address immediate crowding issues at the Cunniff School, although she mentioned that the district might soon be facing such problems in all of our elementary schools, and WHS will be out of space in two years. Mr. Stokes commented that a few days before a recent School Committee Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee meeting, the school department actually posted a bid request on the statewide website for four modular classrooms. Dr. Fitzgerald confirmed this and reported that there was no response to this solicitation for bids, but she will re-post this bid. She added that even in the best-case scenario, a fulfilled order for modular classrooms would not be ready by the beginning of the 2017 school year. Superintendent Fitzgerald commented that early-stage discussions are underway with Mr. Magoon, including work by the town's on-call architecture firm to help determine possible renovations needed, if it is decided to more fully utilize Phillips School.

Councilor Dushku asked if it might be feasible or cost-efficient to work with a neighboring town on modular acquisitions and the Superintendent said that she thought that since the bidding process works within a statewide procurement, there were no efficiencies of scale to be gained. Dr. Fitzgerald encouraged people to read the book "The Third Teacher" which explains the importance of the physical environment and how children learn.

Chair Dattoli moved to continue joint discussions with school committee members and other stakeholders regarding school space concerns and enrollment projections, as needed. The motion carried.

Also Present, cont'd: DCDP Director Steve Magoon, Councillor Anthony Palomba, Mike Shepard (Summer St), David Stokes (Lawrence St), Alyson Morales (Chandler St), Catherine Coyne (Worcester St), Gretchen Neeley (Oakley Rd), Charlie Breitrose (WatertownMANews.com)

Next Meeting: TBD

Adjourned: 7:50 PM

[Note: subsequent to this meeting, on 5/4/2016 the DCDP shared data with WPS and DecisionInsite compiled information about students associated with large residential properties, by address and by project name. The report shows that in school year 2016, there were 24 additional students returning from school year 2015, for a total of 117 students from all current large projects in Town, over a three-year period beginning in 2014.]

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Feltner

6/ /16 Date Approved

LARGE RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS and STUDENT DATA

As of May 4, 2016

YEAR OF OCCUPANCY	NAME	ADDRESS	STUDIO	One BDRM	2 BDRM	3+ BDRM	TOTAL	TOTAL STUDENTS				
							UNITS	2014	2015	DIFF 2014-2015	2016	DIFF 2015-2016
1947	Oakley Court	550 Belmont Street	10	19			29	0	0	0	0	0
1952	Apartments at 805 Mount Auburn Street	805 Mount Auburn Street	11	12	24	1	48	5	12	7	6	(6)
1964	Wateridge	225, 227, 229 & 231 Coolidge Avenue	1	20	24		45	2	1	(1)	1	0
1965	Hamilton Place	245 Main St & 16, 24, 32 Whites Ave	3	74	60		137	33	35	2	40	5
1972	Newton Condominiums	164 Galen Street & 10 Williams Street	44	16	77		137	5	4	(1)	10	6
1982	Whitney Tower	275 Main Street	7	46	39		92	5	5	0	6	1
1987	Charles River Terrace/Towers	135-151 Coolidge Avenue		40	149		189	10	16	6	14	(2)
1988	Horizon East	125 Coolidge Avenue		30	54		84	1	1	0	0	(1)
1990	Crossroads on the Charles	199 Coolidge Avenue		1	103	2	106	0	0	0	0	0
1998	Spring House Apartments	31 Spring Street		17	6		23	5	5	0	6	1
1998	Waterbridge Condos	50 Watertown Street		8	63		71	1	1	0	1	0
2004	Archstone Apartments	20 Watertown Street	18	65	51		134	7	5	(2)	7	2
2005	Riverbank Lofts	290 Pleasant Street	29	28			57	0	ND	ND	0	ND
2009	Repton (Condos) (&&)	3,4,5 Repton Circle	13	77	79	10	179	See	Mews	Combined	Since	2014
2012	Charlesbank Residences	120 Pleasant Street	6	26	12		44	0	0	0	1	1
2013	Watertown Mews (Rentals) (&&)	1,2 Repton Place		93	103	10	206	9	1	(8)	19	18
2013	Riverbend on the Charles	270 Pleasant Street	26	78	66		170	ND	7	7	5	(2)
2014	Alta/Bell Watertown	Woodview Way		82	73		155	ND	0	ND	1	1
2014	192 Pleasant Street (**)	192 Pleasant Street			7		7	ND	ND	ND	0	ND
Under construction	Riverpark Lofts (^)	45 Bacon & 60 Howard Streets	9	22	25	9	65					
Under construction	The Gables	202-204 Arsenal Street		199	91	6	296					
Lot cleared	Union Market/Elan	56-60 Irving Street	61	138	78	5	282					
In permitting process	Watermills	330-350 Pleasant Street					99					

TOTALS

238 1,091 1,184 43 2,655 83 93 10 117 24

ND = No data

(**) = Has 7 two bedroom units with a third "multipurpose" room

(&&) = Repton and Mews combined since data first collected in 2014

(^)= Will have one two bedroom and 24 two bedroom with a study