

Greenwich Board of Education Minutes of the GHS Front Entry Committee Meeting

DATE: December 14, 2022

LOCATION: Virtual via Google Meet

TIME: 8:00 am

Committee Members Present:

Stephen Walko - Chairman

Jake Allen- Vice Chairman

Maureen Bonanno-Secretary

Louis Contadino

Stephanie Cowie

Ashley Cole

Megan Galleta

Christina Downey (BOE)

Leslie Moriarty (BET)

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Craig Amundson (RTM)

Ralph Mayo (GHS Principal)

Tom Bobkowski (BOE - Central Office)

Dan Watson (BOE- Central Office)

Lauren Rabin (Board of Selectmen)

Will Schwartz (DPW)

Dennis Yeskey (P&Z)

Others Present:

Matt Gallerani (Silver Petrucelli)

David Stein (Silver Petrucelli)

Chris Cykley (CSG)

Not Present:

Steven Swidler (BOE Staff)

- **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Mr. Walko at 8:01 a.m.
- **Project Update:**
 - Mr. Walko noted that Mr. Stein and his team met with the Administration to review the functionality of the latest rendition of Option 1A and have provided another revision for review today.
 - Mr. Stein shared a presentation on the revised Option 1A and pointed out a few key details; the addition of a gate near the front desk, which will have 2 staff members at each corner to have visibility on both sides; the area will be designed to fit any equipment needed; doors leading to the offices will be controlled with access control and the door by the security desk was flipped to add seating.

- Mr. Walko confirmed with administration that the size of the front desk is adequate for any equipment needed.
- Mr. Stein noted they kept the wood on the columns but scaled it back and the structural support will be inside, making streamlined connections at the top and bottom. He added that the column near the security guard desk is necessary so they extended the windows further to open up the viewpoint and they moved the security desk slightly.
- In the interior, Mr. Stein noted the soffit that was an issue for some committee members was adjusted back and a window was added to open up the area more.
- Mr. Stein noted that they still have some work to do on the interior finishes.
- **Discussion on Project Update:**
 - Ms. Cowie asked why they added the window looking into the corridor and she asked if there could be a monitor there instead of a window and Mr. Stein responded that putting a monitor there would work as well. Ms. Cowie also noted that she likes the changes made to the columns.
 - Ms. Downey stated that there were a lot of good improvements however she is still concerned about the base of the columns, noting that the cement bases appear heavy. Mr. Stein responded that this was debated back and forth with the original design and finding the right proportion is challenging but they make some adjustments to them but they do tie into the original cement columns and from a purely functional perspective, raising the steel off the ground is better for longevity and it could be used for seating.
 - Ms. Cole stated that she likes column bases and feels as though they tie in with the existing columns and she agrees with Ms. Cowie on switching out the window for a monitor. Ms. Cole asked about the material used for the columns and Mr. Stein noted that it's intended to be real wood and they need to do some research on sourcing. She also asked if there could be a wood ceiling and Mr. Stein responded that doing that would add
 - Mr. Contadino agrees with Ms. Cole on the column bases, noting that they are in keeping with the vocabulary of the building. He also agreed that the added window was not necessary and a monitor was more practical. Mr. Contadino also asked about the butt glazed corner at the security desk and Mr. Stein responded that they need to reach out to the security glazers to see if that is possible. Mr. Stein noted that they did reach out to the curtain wall people and they are unable to alter the 10 ¼ inch window frames or curtain wall which the committee discussed at the last meeting.
 - Mr. Contadino noted his concern over potentially haphazard placement of equipment on the back wall of the desk and suggested they pay close attention to the placement of equipment, the wiring etc. and Mr. Stein agreed.
 - Mr. Amundsen stated that he likes the soffit moved back and it now gives the appearance of a bigger space. He also likes the solid wall for a monitor and he appreciates the way the columns and base are designed and feels they give the appearance of a secure entrance.

- Ms. Moriarty stated that with the improvements made the space appears clean and open and she asked that they make sure that the view from the security desk is as open as possible. She also suggested that the exterior wall at the opposite end, by the student benches, be replaced with a window to open it up more and so the students can see out.
- Ms. Galetta agreed with Ms. Moriarty on adding a window where the benches are. She also agreed with the rest of the committee that a monitor should be added instead of the window. Ms. Galetta also commented on the lighting.
- Mr. Walko then summarized the committee comments: the committee suggested eliminating the window looking into the corridor and replacing it with a monitor; there were mixed reviews on the base of the columns and the suggestion to add an additional window in the corner however, Mr. Walko noted that this may change the look of the vestibule.
- Mr. Contadino agreed that adding a window to the corner area would change the look of the space and does not think that adding a window is necessary.
- Ms. Moriarty noted that there would be symmetry with the security guard area if a window was added to the other end of the building.
- Mr. Amundsen noted that given the cost of glazing, we should not be adding exterior windows and he doesn't believe that a window there is necessary.
- Ms. Bonanno agrees with Ms. Moriarty that a window by the seating area would be good there and she asked if seating was going outside in front of the wall. She also asked if the column by the security desk was still a concern from Mr. Bobkowski's perspective and he responded that there will always be some dead spots and that is where the cameras come into play. He noted that the cameras will be flush mounted cameras that have 360 degree views.
- Mr. Walko asked if the wall to the right of the vestibule creates a spot from the inside, a blind spot for security and Mr. Bobkowski noted that the camera's would cover the entire area there.
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- **Motion to Extend Glass:**

Motion was made by Leslie Moriarty and seconded by Maureen Bonanno to extend the glass at the right side of the vestibule by the student seating area.

The Motion Failed 3-4-2 Mr. Allen, Mr. Contadino, Mr. Walko and Ms. Cowie did not approve the motion and Ms. Downey and Ms. Cole abstained.

- **Discussion on Motion:**

- Ms. Downey noted her concern regarding costs and would like to see a rendition of it to visualize it and Ms. Cole agreed.
- Mr. Walko suggested meeting Friday to see a rendition with the glass extended.
- Mr. Stein noted that architecturally, the balance between the solid and the glass anchors it more and he is concerned about the additional cost, and too much solar glare in that space, however, they could increase the amount of glass without going all the way over but they can provide a comparison for the committee to review.

- Ms. Downey asked if this is something that ARC would be concerned with and she asked if the glass could be increased without going all the way over.
 - Ms. Cole stated that she thinks that extending the glass all the way over would compromise the design and would vote no.
 - Ms. Moriarty then asked if we could have an estimate of the cost to increase the windows and noted that there may be a little room in the budget and Mr. Walko then noted that we could treat it as an add alternate.
 - Ms. Cowie noted that there needs to be something in front, outside to soften it such as bench seating but it doesn't need to be a window.
 - Mr. Walko then noted that the vote will stand for today and we will revisit it on Friday.
- **Going Forward/Next Meeting:**
 - The committee will meet on Friday, December 16th to vote to improve the design.
 - **Approval of Invoice:**

Motion was made by Jake Allen and seconded by Leslie Moriarty to approve Invoice dated 12/1/22 #221375 in the amount of \$3,940 for the completion of schematic design. The motion was approved. Ms. Cole and Ms. Galetta were not present for the vote.
The Motion Passed 7-0-0

- **Approval of Minutes:**

Motion was made by Leslie Moriarty and seconded by Jake Allen to approve the minutes of the December 7th, 2022 meeting. The motion was approved. Ms. Cole and Ms. Galetta were not present for the vote.
The Motion Passed 7-0-0

- **Adjourn:**
 - The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Walko at 8:58 am.

Submitted by Maureen Bonanno on January 16 th, 2023