

DANVILLE SCHOOL BOARD: APPROVED MINUTES  
BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING 6/21/2023

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**Danville School Building Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, June 21, 2023, 6:00pm**  
**Danville School Library & Zoom Teleconference**  
[Video Recording](#)

**School Directors Present:** Clayton Cargill, Melissa Conly, Molly Gleason

**Planned Absences:** Dave Towle, Tim Sanborn

**School Administrators & Staff Present:** Elementary Principal Sarah Welch, Facilities Director Shawn McNamara

**Building Committee Members Present:** Lance Horne (present at the beginning of the meeting), Kaity White, Mary Beattie, Bruce Melendy (via Zoom),

**Public Present:** None

**Agenda**

- 1. Call meeting to order:** Clayton called the meeting to order at 6:00pm
- 2. Additions/Changes to the Agenda -** *(Proposed additions or deletions/Possible agreement):*

Clayton added an update on Danville Works and Dave Schilling resigning from his position as director.

- 3. Discussion:**  
**Updates from June School Board Meeting**

- Update on Danville Works: Clayton shared that Dave Schilling was recruited by Lyndon Institute for their Career and Technical Education program, and he is leaving his position at Danville School. His last meeting will be the regular board meeting on June 27th. He added that the Danville Works program operated for half the year without a director, with Dave S. taking on the Interim Principal position. There are three positions within Danville Works; two are grant-funded positions (1.6 total FTE), and one was already in the budget. A replacement will likely not be hired for Dave's position this year, because it is a two-year contract for an administrative position, and there is only one year remaining in the grant that funded his position. Additionally, the hiring session has largely ended.
- Lighting Plans: Clayton reported that the school needs to replace all fluorescent lighting with LEDs due to state law prohibiting the purchase of fluorescent bulbs in

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2024. The board approved the project and will use the Unrestricted Reserve Fund to support the cost; the administration is looking for grant opportunities, and the fund can be reimbursed if the school is awarded grant funding.

- Library Plans: Clayton shared that the board also approved using funding from the Brainerd Fund to replace shelving in the library and allow for more flexible use of the classroom space. Sarah added that the new shelving is sturdier and designed for library use, and the temporary wall will provide more space for different ages and classes.
- Pending Discussion on Air Handlers: Clayton reported that the air handler replacement project will likely be funded through a loan, and Mark is getting project cost information. There was a question about the investment and whether the handlers could be moved if changes were made to the building. Shawn stated that they will be on the side of the building, instead of in the basement, and could be moved if needed. Shawn and Sarah stated that this replacement will provide significant savings for the school in electricity costs.
- Clayton stated that Mark sent a lengthy email explaining why the North Danville building is not viable for preschoolers, mainly because it is occupied and in poor condition. He added that Dave Schilling looked at the community center, and it is not be suitable for preschool.
- Summer Break for this Group: Clayton stated that the committee would be taking a break for the summer due to administrators being unavailable, as well as several board members. He shared that information will be coming from the state on the status of schools and that data might be available to help with this work in the fall.

There was a discussion on the project option committee members discussed and had agreement on at the last meeting, a separate building as a start to a long-term master plan for the school, not connected to the existing building. Some favor it being for preschoolers, and some for high school classrooms. Discussion on the older buildings and systems being at the end of life and the highest priorities being the air handlers/ventilation and space for preschoolers. Discussion on taxes and that even though Danville School receives more than it puts into the Education Fund, as Vermonters, all taxpayers, both homestead and non-homestead property owners, are paying when costs increase for the state and local towns. Furthermore, a non-homestead property owner in Danville who could be a business owner is paying homestead property taxes in addition to the non-homestead taxes set by the state.

There were questions raised on how much the town can afford for a project and what the community would support/wants to invest in, and the costs of being code compliant. The additional structure in the bus loop plus the make-good cost was \$60M from Truex Cullins.

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There was a discussion on bringing in more high school students and revenue, school finances, capital expenditures, and the limitations of how much local districts can charge for each tuition student. Sarah stated that they plan on about 45 tuition students in grades 7-12 each year. Clayton noted that the seats in the classrooms would otherwise be empty if the tuition students weren't there. Discussion on investing in a preschool or high school building, the cost differences with educating a preschooler vs a high school student. Some noted the challenges with preschoolers being separated from the main building and the benefits of having a high school space to draw in more tuition students. Can classrooms be adapted for preschoolers and younger students?

There was a discussion on community outreach and using the summer months to connect with community members and gather their input and data, possibly through a survey or at a booth at Danville Fair and talking informally to community members. Molly will send a draft of survey questions to Kaity, Rob, Mary, and Melissa. The survey could include information on tax impact and what the community wants to invest in. Clayton stated that no more than two board members could be on an email chain, and he will not be involved in the emails and discussions. Clayton/Molly will discuss the NESDEC membership group with Mark to get data and reports for strategic planning and possibly add that to the board meeting agenda.

- Strategic Planning - Fall Sessions: Clayton shared that the committee will reconvene to discuss strategic planning in the fall.
- Master Plan and Planning: This will be discussed in the fall. Discussion on next steps and whether architects should be hired to do another needs assessment to look at what can be done within the walls of the building. Some are in favor of this and others would like to seek input from the community to establish a project budget that is realistic.

**4. Scheduling / Future Agenda Items / Next Meeting Date - TBD in the fall.**

**5. Public Input - None**

**6. Adjourn:**

MOTION: Melissa moved to adjourn at 7:06 pm, Molly seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Molly Gleason, Clerk, June 23rd, 2023