

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
JANUARY 3, 2017 – 7:00 P.M.  
LINCOLN CENTER HEARING ROOM**

4.C

**ONE MEETING AGENDA**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Moran, Deputy Mayor Hackett, Secretary Kissmann, Directors Devanney, Eckbreth, Galligan, Gates, Irish, and Jones

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO:** General Manager Shanley and Town Attorney Ryan Barry

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** - The Board went into Executive Session at 6:55 p.m. to discuss Real Estate and adjourned at 7:05 p.m. Present were Mayor Moran, Deputy Mayor Hackett, Secretary Kissmann, Directors Devanney, Eckbreth, Galligan, Gates, Irish, Jones, and General Manager Shanley. No votes were taken.

**1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mayor Moran.

**REMOVED** – Motion to remove Item 14 from the Agenda.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Real Estate

**Hackett/Galligan**

**Nine Voted in Favor**

**2. AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS**

A. Recognize recipients of National Arson Investigators award.

**Mayor Moran** explained that the Police and Fire personnel who were honored with the National Arson Investigators award for their work in the Park Street arson/murder investigation were unable to attend tonight's meeting. They have been invited to attend the February 7, 2017 Board meeting.

**3. OPENING OF MEETING TO ELECTORS OR TAXPAYERS WHO WISH TO BE HEARD ON ANY SUBJECT WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. (Sign-up sheet available 15 minutes prior to the start of the meeting)**

**Tracy Maio, 57 Horton Road**, overwhelmingly supported the slide at Waddell School although neither of her children would benefit from it. She has followed this project for over three years and was excited about the future of the educational system in Manchester. She felt it was moving in the right direction and that the slide was a symbol. She liked the idea of trying something new and innovative. Ms. Maio did not think the decision to add a slide was ill-considered or irresponsible. The Superintendent formed a diverse committee of administration, teachers, and parents from Waddell and Robertson Schools. During the committee meetings, there was no opposition to the slide. Ms. Maio was taken aback by the recent negative feedback.

**Ms. Maio** did not feel there was a difference between an indoor or outdoor slide other than the students will have access to it year round. The slide would be sheltered from the elements, therefore, reducing wear and tear. Access to the slide would be limited to students in the school as opposed to the outdoor slide which is open to the public and vandals. She also mentioned a rock climbing wall in the gym as being more dangerous than the slide.

**Erica Parent, 101 Oliver Road**, PTA president at Waddell School, felt that the students and staff deserved a building that was stimulating and reignited their love for teaching and learning. She believed that children needed to be engaged and that learning was based on play. Ms. Parent thought the slide could be used as a tool to promote behaviors. She believed the installation of the slide would be a pivotal step for the Town and its students, and solidifies Manchester's vision for a revitalized educational system.

**Melanie Stefanovicz, 149 Loomis Street**, a member of the Board of Education, explained that currently, parent educators, tutors, and students are sitting in the hallways outside of the classrooms. She did not believe it was an ideal scenario because of the distractions. The TSKP Studio plan for Waddell School accommodated the request from teachers to create one-on-one space in alcoves. She was very excited about the STEM laboratory, the flexible space for band and music, and the art room. Most of all, she thought the students would be most excited for the slide. Ms. Stefanovicz believed the administration would be able to set up a behavioral incentive plan using the slide. By having the teachers also go down the slide, she felt that it would create an engaging and exciting environment. She also believed it would be a tool that the teachers and the administration could use to create a positive climate.

#### **4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

- A. Actions, December 6, 2016 – Regular Meeting
- B. Minutes, December 6, 2016 – Regular Meeting

**Galligan/Eckbreth**

**Nine Voted in Favor**

#### **5. COMMUNICATIONS**

**Director Eckbreth** received communications regarding the slide and the renovations at Waddell School. She also received positive feedback regarding Deputy Mayor Hackett's suggestion at the last Board meeting to televise the Redevelopment Agency meetings.

**Mayor Moran** added that he received several communications regarding the slide, both positive and negative. Mayor Moran received a note from Mrs. Bonnie Schuetz wishing the Board a Happy Holiday and he was glad to read that she was doing well.

**6. REPORTS - NONE**

**7. PRESENTATION OF BID WAIVER REQUESTS - NONE**

**8. PUBLIC HEARINGS (formally advertised)**

8A. Appropriations to Special Projects as follows:

1. Human Services – Relocation of Displaced Tenants ..... \$4,301  
to be financed by a donation from JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. which is gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
2. Leisure, Family and Recreation – Better Manchester Magazine ..... \$1,000  
to be funded by an award from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities.
3. Manchester Public Library – New Alliance Foundation Grant ..... \$25,000  
for services and books to assist with the Summer Reading program for students in Grades K through 3.
4. Public Safety – East Central Narcotics Task Force ..... \$8,500  
to cover all off-site operating expenses and ECN equipment costs to be financed by the annual contribution from South Windsor.

**Mayor Moran opened the floor for public comment at this time.**

**There being no further public comment, Mayor Moran opened the floor for Board Members' comments.**

**There being no further comments, Mayor Moran closed the public hearing on the above items.**

B. Appropriations to Education Special Projects as follows:

1. Increase to Manchester Head Start (FY 16/17)..... \$14,636  
for operation of Enfield Head Start program to be financed by a cost of living adjustment to the federal grant, bringing the total award to \$854,182.
2. Bilingual Education Grant (FY2016-2017) ..... \$4,945  
to be financed by a grant from the Connecticut State Department of Education.
3. Title III, Part A, English Language Acquisition and  
Language Enhancement Grant (FY 2016- 2018)..... \$55,987  
to be financed by the Connecticut State Department of Education.
4. Out-of-District Magnet School Transportation (FY 16/17)..... \$75,500  
to be financed by the State of Connecticut Department of Education.
5. Title I Improving Basic Programs Grant (2016-2018) ..... \$1,850,859  
to be financed by the Connecticut State Department of Education  
to support district and school improvement efforts.
6. Title II - Part A Grant (2016-2018)..... \$177,006  
to be financed by a grant from the Connecticut State Department of  
Education to ensure that all students are performing at or above grade level.
7. Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education  
Secondary Basic Grant (FY 16/17) ..... \$100,371  
to be financed by a grant from the State of Connecticut.

- 8. Increase to Preschool Development Grant (FY 16/17)..... \$4,134  
to be financed by a grant through the Office of Early Childhood to  
implement and sustain a high-quality preschool program to reach and  
serve additional eligible children in high-need communities, for a total  
appropriation of \$241,183.

**Mayor Moran opened the floor for public comment at this time.**

**There being no further public comment, Mayor Moran opened the floor for Board Members' comments.**

**Mayor Moran** questioned if the \$1,850,859 Title I Improving Basic Programs Grant (2016-2018) is the entire amount.

**Superintendent Matt Geary** confirmed yes, it is the total amount. Funding is received each year to be used over a two-year period (2016-2018), with approximately 75 percent of the funding spent in the year that it is received.

**Director Irish** noticed on the budget forms breakdown that the Title I Improving Basic Programs Grant listed personal services-salaries of \$1,301,087 and employee benefits of \$220,468, which he felt was a reasonable percentage. Yet, the Title II-Part A Grant listed \$30,616 in personal services-salaries, but employee benefits of \$14,602. He questioned the disparity in the percentage of the numbers.

**Superintendent Geary** offered to research and will let the Board know the answer.

**There being no further comments, Mayor Moran closed the public hearing on the above items.**

- C. Appropriation to Alexander and Alice C. Jarvis Book Fund..... \$90,000  
for the purchase of books to be financed by Jarvis Fund Balance.

**Mayor Moran opened the floor for public comment at this time.**

**There being no further public comment, Mayor Moran opened the floor for Board Members' comments.**

**There being no further comments, Mayor Moran closed the public hearing on the above items.**

- D. Appropriation to Newton Taggart Library Trust Fund.....\$50,000  
for the purchase of children’s books to be financed by Newton Taggart  
Trust Fund Balance.

**Mayor Moran opened the floor for public comment at this time.**

**There being no further public comment, Mayor Moran opened the floor for Board Members’ comments.**

**There being no further comments, Mayor Moran closed the public hearing on the above items.**

- E. Appropriation to Fire Reserve - Paramedic Fund ..... \$500  
for the purchase of training materials or paramedic supplies to be funded by  
a donation from First Korean Presbyterian Church which is gratefully  
acknowledged and accepted.

**Mayor Moran opened the floor for public comment at this time.**

**There being no further public comment, Mayor Moran opened the floor for Board Members’ comments.**

**There being no further comments, Mayor Moran closed the public hearing on the above items.**

**9. CONSENT CALENDAR**

8A. Appropriations to Special Projects as follows:

- 1. Human Services – Relocation of Displaced Tenants ..... \$4,301  
to be financed by a donation from JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. which is  
gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
- 2. Leisure, Family and Recreation – Better Manchester Magazine ..... \$1,000  
to be funded by an award from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities.
- 3. Manchester Public Library – New Alliance Foundation Grant ..... \$25,000  
for services and books to assist with the Summer Reading program  
for students in Grades K through 3.
- 4. Public Safety – East Central Narcotics Task Force ..... \$8,500  
to cover all off-site operating expenses and ECN equipment costs to be  
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serve additional eligible children in high-need communities, for a total  
appropriation of \$241,183.
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for the purchase of books to be financed by Jarvis Fund Balance.
- D. Appropriation to Newton Taggart Library Trust Fund... ..\$50,000  
for the purchase of children’s books to be financed by Newton Taggart  
Trust Fund Balance.
- E. Appropriation to Fire Reserve - Paramedic Fund..... \$500  
for the purchase of training materials or paramedic supplies to be funded by  
a donation from First Korean Presbyterian Church which is gratefully  
acknowledged and accepted.
- 12A. Appropriation to Special Projects (under \$500) as follows:
  - 1. Cemetery Trust Fund ..... \$20  
for the cemetery care fund to be financed by a donation from Nancy  
McNamara which is gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
  - 2. Police Donations Revenue Account - Manchester Police Explorer Post..... \$100  
to be funded by dues.
- 12B. Approval of early retirement for Rod Mathers, Sanitation.
- 12C. Appointment of a regular member (Julian Stoppelman) and an alternate member  
(Timothy Bergin) to the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG)  
Regional Planning Commission.

**Gates/Galligan**

**Nine Voted in Favor**

**10. ACTION ON ITEMS OF PUBLIC HEARING - NONE**

**11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Appointments to Boards and Commissions which have members with terms expiring in  
November 2016:

<u>Board/Commission</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expiring</u>
<u>Arts Commission</u>	A-Roberta Irish, 45 Steep Hollow Lane (R)	November 2019

**Eckbreth/Devanney**

**Eight Voted in Favor**  
(Director Irish abstained)

<u>Board/Commission</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expiring</u>
<u>Board of Assessment Appeals</u>	R-William Overton, 103 Timrod Rd (R)	November 2019
<b>Eckbreth/Devanney</b>		<b>Nine Voted in Favor</b>
<u>Commission on Human Relations, Elderly Services and People With Disabilities</u>	A-Walter Bochnik, 19 Parsons Court (R)	November 2019
<b>Eckbreth/Galligan</b>		<b>Nine Voted in Favor</b>
	T-Joe Young, 103 Autumn St (D)	November 2019
	T-Nichole Easley, 2 Alpine St (D)	November 2019
<b>Gates/Kissmann</b>		<b>Nine Voted in Favor</b>
<u>Housing and Fair Rent Commission</u>	T-Vacancy (R)	November 2019
<b>Eckbreth/Galligan</b>		<b>Nine Voted in Favor</b>

**12. NEW BUSINESS**

**TABLED**

D. Approval of a resolution whereby the Town of Manchester agrees to extend the existing lease and subordinate its interest in the real estate known as 1146 Main Street, also known as the Bennet Housing building, to effectuate a loan from Webster Bank in the amount of 1.8 million dollars to finance the capital improvements made to the Bennet Housing complex during the past two years and to authorize Scott Shanley to execute any documentation necessary to complete the loan transaction.

**Eckbreth/Galligan** **Nine Voted in Favor**

**General Manager Shanley** explained that this would be the last action for the Board, of what has been a very successful four-year effort, to refresh and renew the elderly housing complex at no cost to the taxpayer.

**Director Irish** asked if any members of the Bennet Housing Authority were present to speak on behalf of this item.

**Mayor Moran** and **General Manager Shanley** responded that there were none.

**Director Irish** requested the Bennet Housing Authority's opinion on the proposal. He also indicated that the current lease expires in 2023 which leaves six years remaining on the current lease. He asked if the lease was being extended by 24 years or 30 years. Director Irish stated that thirty years would be beyond the period of the mortgage.

**General Manager Shanley** responded that the intent was to match the period of the mortgage.

**Director Eckbreth** made a motion to Table Item 12D until more information was given.

**REMOVED** – Motion to remove Item 12E from the Agenda.

E. Approval of the plans and specifications for Additions and Renovations to the Waddell Elementary School, dated October 28, 2016, prepared by TSKP Studio, and the associated cost estimate, dated November 23, 2016, prepared by Downes Construction, for the submission to the Department of Administrative Services, Office of School Construction Grants, for Review of Final Plans for Construction Authorization.

**Eckbreth/Jones**

**Nine Voted in Favor**

**General Manager Shanley** explained that this step was not part of the State required legal process. It was not intended to be an architectural briefing, but an overview and to answer any questions. General Manager Shanley introduced **Superintendent Matt Geary** and **Mr. Randall Luther, Partner, TSKP Studio**. **Project Manager Chris Till** was not able to be present.

**Mayor Moran** requested clarification as to the jurisdiction of the process.

**General Manager Shanley** clarified that the State requires the Board of Education and the Building Committee, which was appointed by the Board of Directors, to approve the plans. The State does not require the Board of Directors to approve the plans.

**Mayor Moran** asked if the plans would still go forward if the Board of Directors did not approve the Item.

**General Manager Shanley** answered legally, yes.

**Director Irish** asked if the Town Attorney agreed.

**Town Attorney Ryan Barry** responded yes.

**General Manager Shanley** reiterated that the project was recently approved by the State, the Board of Education, and the Building Committee. This step is to make sure that the Board of Directors had a chance to view the plans and offer comments that the Board of Education may consider.

**Mr. Luther** explained that the firm was previously known as Tai Soo Kim Partners. The name was recently changed to TSKP Studio. Mr. Luther has been working on this project from the very beginning. The strategy was to divide the project into three parts - the school portion, the park portion, and a shared zone in between. Currently, the park portion with the ball field has no parking so cars park on the streets or in the existing back school lots. At the same time, there was a need for additional parking for the school. Locating a parking lot in the shared zone would address both issues.



Another item that was desired in the shared zone was a play structure. It would serve kids during school, and on weekends and after hours when older siblings are playing ball, younger siblings would have a place to play. The new plan proposes relocating the current playscape towards the back of the shared zone.

Immediately adjacent to the playscape would be paved play and at the same time, parking. As the school is going to expand, the number of cars on site will increase significantly. Additional students will not be walkers as they will be redistricted students coming from a greater distance. Currently, cars are parking primarily on Windemere and Broad Streets. The goal was for the cars to be accommodated on site and off of the public streets. If there were only one entrance to the site, there would be potential for congestion. It was decided to split the traffic to disperse the traffic as much as possible. Half of the parents during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up would be assigned to the South lot and enter off of Broad Street. Half would be assigned to the East lot and would enter from Windemere Street. After the morning drop-off, a gate would be closed and the entire parking lot would become a fenced, paved play area.

Once the traffic circulation pattern was established, the logical place for an addition was an L-shape along the Southwest corner of the building. The addition is where students are being dropped off, and it is the most prominent view of the building. The Superintendent requested that it feel like a new school, not an old school that was upgraded. Lastly, the bus loop will be extended to the South to accommodate the additional bus load required.

**Mr. Luther** described the Lower Level Floor Plan. The main entrance will be located off of the new main parking lot. Administration is located in a corner that affords a 270-degree view of the site for maximum visibility for security purposes. The cafeteria is located immediately opposite the main entrance for easy access for parents and groups at after-hours functions. There was a conscious effort to make the much-discussed slide prominent, and send the message to the students that this is a new school and a new way of doing things.

The existing building essentially remains the same, although, it will be refurbished with all new finishes, technology, and mechanical systems. The exception is the current kitchen and cafeteria which will be turned into two new classrooms. A courtyard with picnic tables would serve as an outdoor classroom, and dining would be accessed directly from the cafeteria.

The current Board of Education storage area, which serves the entire district, will be left as is except for a few minor code issues.

In the Upper Level, the existing main entrance and office will become a staff entrance adjacent to the staff parking lot. The current main office will become a classroom and the main lobby will become the new library/media center. To allow for community accessibility for after-hours functions, there will be a small vestibule with stairs and handicapped ramps.

The new addition contains two music rooms, a STEM classroom, a project room, and the art room. The project room can be a stand-alone space or can work in conjunction with the STEM room or the art room. Alcoves have been created where teachers can work with a student one-on-one without having to sit on the floor.

The art room has a very large, prominent South-facing window. It affords an opportunity to showcase students' artwork. The projection also serves as an overhang to cover the main entrance of the school which is underneath. The existing porch would be glassed in and become a story area in the library/media center. The existing steps would be removed to eliminate confusion about the entrance.

All the windows in the music/art/STEM area will be covered with perforated metal panels to provide sun shading. Photovoltaics will be installed on the existing South-facing gym roof as well as the new addition. The payback analysis shows the net cost of the panels is approximately \$63,000. With an extremely conservative energy savings estimate, there would be approximately a nine to ten-year payback.

The educational courtyard consists of two levels with a seat wall that can be used as an outdoor classroom. Selective landscaping will serve as a buffer from the interior classrooms to limit distractions.

In summary, five full-size classrooms will be added, which allows for five classrooms per grade and one swing classroom to accommodate a bubble that is coming through the grades. There will be about 17,000 square feet of new construction, with 2,000 square feet being demolished, for a net increase of approximately 15,000 square feet of building space. Seventy-five spaces of parking will be added. Enrollment will be going up significantly from 385 to a peak enrollment of 580.

The project is currently out to bid and contracts are anticipated to be awarded in February. Construction would begin on the addition in March, with the renovation work beginning at the end of June after the students leave. The estimated project completion date is June 2018.

**General Manager Shanley** clarified that the legal process required by the State was satisfied without action by the Board of Directors. He thought if the Board of Directors decided not to have the project move forward, they would be able to make that happen.

**Director Eckbreth** requested further clarification from Town Attorney Barry as to the code which stated that no action by the Board is necessary.

**General Manager Shanley** suggested that the architect was the most knowledgeable about the State process and perhaps, he could further explain.

**Director Eckbreth** felt it was a legal question.

**Mr. Luther** responded that in his 25 years of experience working with public schools, he had not previously received the approval of the executive body of a Town. The State required approvals from the Board of Education and a Building Committee which is established to act on the Board's behalf.

**Director Eckbreth** asked Mr. Luther if he was familiar with the Department of Administrative Services' code on local authorization of project funding. It stated that specific mechanisms of approval are dictated by the local Charter and General Statutes. In the Town of Manchester's local Charter and General Statutes, there was no fiduciary responsibility that was sent to the Board of Education absent the Board of Directors.

**Mr. Luther** replied that the Board of Education, the Building Committee, and the State have signed off and all the State requirements had been satisfied.

**Director Eckbreth** stated that their requirement diverted back to local Charter and General Statutes in determining the authorization. An authorization had already been completed through the bonding process. A second authorization was for the actual project design and they did not differentiate between the two. She believed that our Charter did not put fiduciary responsibilities through the Board of Education but through the Board of Directors.

**Attorney Barry** agreed that it was an intriguing question.

**General Manager Shanley** responded that in the past, this step had been informational. He agreed that the State process had been satisfied absent approval by this Board.

**Director Eckbreth** pointed out that this was not a discussion item on the Agenda, but an Action item that included a monetary amount. She disputed that the Board of Education could approve this without the Board of Directors' approval.

**Mayor Moran** questioned what the approval of this item meant.

**General Manager Shanley** explained that this was an approval item as it mirrors the previous school projects.

**Director Eckbreth** requested clarity. She believed that the Department of Administrative Services had made it very clear that this was dictated by the local Charter and General Statutes. Our local Charter and General Statutes, which the Board members were sworn to uphold, did not delegate that authority to the Board of Education.

**Attorney Barry** asked for the actual code being referenced. He questioned if it was regulation as promulgated by the Department of Administrative Services.

**Director Eckbreth** answered yes, it was clearly stated on the Department of Administrative Services' main page under grant process and eligibility.

**General Manager Shanley** suggested that the Town Attorney be given some time to work on an answer.

**Director Eckbreth** requested confirmation that this was a governing body and that the Board had authority in this decision.

**Attorney Barry** replied that he could run a Westlaw case search on the regulation to see if there was a Supreme Court case that stated definitively what the answer was.

**Director Eckbreth** stated the language was on the Department of Administrative Services' website, School Construction Grant Process, Part 2 Local Authorization of Project Funding.

**ADOPTED** – Motion to recess at 8:17 p.m.

**Eckbreth/Hackett**

**Nine Voted in Favor**

**MEETING CALLED TO RECONVENE at 8:39 p.m.**

**Mayor Moran** clarified that after consulting with the Town Attorneys, the authorization of the Board of Directors was given through the referendum process.

**Director Devanney** questioned where the idea for the slide came from.

**Superintendent Geary** answered that initially, his charge to the architect was to have Waddell symbolize creativity, innovation, enthusiasm, and excitement at a reasonable cost. When the slide was suggested, it was brought to the Waddell parent group, the Building Committee, and the Board of Education who all liked the idea. Superintendent Geary apologized for not getting the information about the slide out sooner, but he did not anticipate the level of consternation.

**Director Devanney** indicated that he learned about the slide through multiple residents of all ages and that he had only heard negative feedback. He did like the open, welcoming space in the entrance. Director Devanney suggested giving the teachers tools for their classrooms to help make learning more effective and fun. Director Devanney liked the alcoves, but disagreed with the slide.

**Superintendent Geary** responded with the positives of the plan: the alcoves, outdoor classroom space, beautiful art studio, project room, and a library with makerspace. He felt the slide was largely symbolic. He noted that as kids got a little older, their enthusiasm starts to wane. Superintendent Geary felt it was important to make sure kids are still excited about going to school.

**Director Devanney** was concerned that our society was more litigious than ever.

**Superintendent Geary** noted that the Board of Education will work with CIRMA to ensure all necessary precautions are taken.

**Deputy Mayor Hackett** thanked Superintendent Geary and the parents of Waddell for their advocacy and was pleased with their involvement. She felt there was a communication breakdown between the Board of Education and the Board of Directors. The Directors received a lot of negative feedback from members of the public who questioned the Board of Education's priorities. She was worried that the attention paid to the slide would interfere with residents' inclinations to provide continued support to Manchester Public Schools physical plant renovations and the rejuvenation of schools. Deputy Mayor Hackett understood infusing positive disruptive change into an environment, but felt this had created a mixed message for the community. Members of the public have asked about accessibility to the slide for all members of the school community.

**Superintendent Geary** noted from his experience in other districts that the Board of Education works with the public Building Committee. With respect to accessibility, there were playgrounds outside with slides that were not accessible to every student. Superintendent Geary felt the Board of Education was transparent about the slide as it was communicated through school newsletters and at several public Building Committee meetings.

**Deputy Mayor Hackett** was pleased with the introduction of STEM and liked the design to create more conducive learning, but felt differently about the slide.

**Director Eckbreth** spent 2 ½ years working on the SMARTR project and the Board of Directors worked very hard to get this referendum passed. It was daunting to see an \$85 million school referendum project be capsulated in a "McDonald's slide". She received feedback from the public and teachers who were not in favor of the slide. The teachers expressed concern that adaptive equipment was needed for students such as special furniture and chairs. Director Eckbreth heard of children who were unable to attend competitions as the trips were canceled for lack of funds.

**Director Eckbreth** pointed out that there were three monitors supervising the kids on the outdoor slides, and there were still a lot of injuries. She suggested spending the \$20,000 on making the outdoor slides accessible to disabled students. She also suggested contacting Pratt & Whitney or Hamilton Standard and creating a mock flight simulator using video technology. Director Eckbreth felt that this item was inappropriately placed on the Agenda as an Action Item and will ask that it be removed.

**Superintendent Geary** responded that the Board of Education was aware of the need of adaptive furniture, and was currently speaking to staff about different furniture setups. He did not agree that a slide would prevent teachers from getting the furniture that they needed. Superintendent Geary meets with teachers every month across the district and understood that not every teacher supported the slide. He had not received any negative feedback from the community. Superintendent Geary suggested directing residents who have questions or concerns to him.

**Director Eckbreth** reiterated that she was not criticizing Superintendent Geary directly and understood that he had made gains. She was speaking of feedback that had been expressed to her from the teachers who felt a great need still existed.

**Mayor Moran** thanked Superintendent Geary, accepted his apology for the lack of communication, and appreciated the parents coming out this evening. Mayor Moran is also concerned about the liability issue. He stated that the plan that had been approved by the Board of Education and the Building Committee was exciting for the future of our community. Mayor Moran thanked Mr. Luther for his presentation.

**APPROVED**

F. Establishment of Land Acquisition and Historic Property Investment Committee.

**Eckbreth/Hackett**

**Nine Voted in Favor**

**General Manager Shanley** explained that during the last Open Space program, the Board of Directors established a committee to advise how those funds should be expended. He recommended establishing this committee to review requests, decide what the priorities are, and the metrics for making decisions.

**Mayor Moran** questioned if this would be similar to the Golf Oversight Committee.

**General Manager Shanley** answered that it would be more advisory as the committee would not be able to take independent action. It would make recommendations and the decisions would ultimately be up to the Board of Directors.

**Director Gates** supported this Item. He had received feedback about the Open Space Item on the November ballot regarding who was going to decide how the priorities were determined and how would people apply. A committee like this would ensure that due diligence had been done. Director Gates volunteered to serve at the pleasure of the Chair.

**Mayor Moran** appointed **Director Gates** to the Land Acquisition and Historic Property Investment Committee.

**Director Irish** questioned if General Manager Shanley was referring to a committee that was in place from 2012 to 2015 for the expenditure of money from a previous referendum that was used to purchase properties.

**General Manager Shanley** stated it was much earlier, that Director Eckbreth served on the committee, and indicated that the committee has not met in years.

**Director Irish** asked if there was a formula as to how that committee was made up.

**General Manager Shanley** indicated that it was similar to this committee except it did not include individuals with historic property experience.

**Director Eckbreth** responded that it had been approximately two years since the committee dissolved the last of the money to the Land Trust which was done through a Board Action. Director Eckbreth appointed **Director Devanney** to serve.

**Mayor Moran** confirmed that there were two Board representatives, and the Board will look to staff to come up with rest of the makeup of the committee. He welcomed **Director Gates** and **Director Devanney**.

**General Manager Shanley** indicated that he will organize a meeting.

**13. COMMENT AND DISCUSSION BY BOARD MEMBERS ON ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA OR OF GENERAL CONCERN**

**Director Gates** suggested that the Board of Education's Budget Workshop schedule be shared with the entire Board.

**General Manager Shanley** affirmed that he would obtain the schedule, and also mentioned that the Board of Education was interested in an early joint meeting.

**Director Irish** requested a status report of the sidewalks in the Hollywood section of Manchester which were mentioned at the last Board meeting.

**Mayor Moran** added that he was curious if it was just a couple of sidewalks or the entire neighborhood.

**General Manager Shanley** responded that Engineering could provide a briefing on sidewalks, and noted that a road bond will be coming up for the Fall of this year.

**Director Irish** stated that many years ago he was the author of a sidewalk improvement plan where sidewalks were chosen to be repaired in proximity to students walking to school.

**General Manager Shanley** acknowledged that the plan is still being used today.

**Director Irish** had a concern regarding the grain elevator at Apel Place that had been vacated by the Central Connecticut Farmer's Cooperative. With the amount of grain that had been spilled over the years, it could be an issue in the summer and he requested an inspection by the Health Department.

**General Manager Shanley** responded that the Building Official and the Fire Marshall's office conduct inspections often. He will check with the Health Department to see if there is a health concern.

**Director Irish** felt that the Board should receive copies of minutes of Boards and Commission meetings.

**General Manager Shanley** confirmed that the minutes are available online.

**Director Irish** noted that there was a discussion earlier this evening with the legislative delegation regarding group homes in Manchester. He suggested a conversation at the next Board meeting about taking steps to identify this issue in the community and positive ways to respond.

**General Manager Shanley** recommended that Director Irish, and someone from the Democratic side, meet with staff to discuss this item before it is added to the Agenda.

**Director Irish** and **Mayor Moran** agreed.

**Director Irish** requested a meeting with Mayor Bronin of Hartford. He supported regionalization and he would like Manchester to be included.

**General Manager Shanley** confirmed that he had spoken with Mayor Bronin and will formally invite him.

**Director Galligan** mentioned that in October the Board was contacted by St. Michael's College to discuss the enforcement of the Living Wage Ordinance. He requested an update and asked if their ultimate goal was to publish a study or paper.

**General Manager Shanley** answered that he spoke to two Ph.D.'s from St. Michael's via video conference. They questioned how the Living Wage Ordinance came about, how it was enforced, and the challenges we have experienced. General Manager Shanley had not seen the results, but believed they would be publishing a paper.

**Mayor Moran** mentioned Deputy Mayor Hackett's previous recommendation to televise the Redevelopment Agency meetings on Channel 16. He spoke with the leadership of the Redevelopment Agency and they asked to discuss the idea at their next meeting on January 19. Mayor Moran agreed with giving them that opportunity. He requested that this be postponed a month, so that if we do actually go forward, we will have the opportunity to train the members. Mayor Moran felt it was different than running a meeting without microphones and lights.

**Director Eckbreth** did not mind waiting, but noted that many Redevelopment Agency members have sat on committees that have been filmed before and were aware of the system.

**Deputy Mayor Hackett** agreed that she would like to give the members of the Redevelopment Agency deference in acclimating to the change.

**Director Devanney** mentioned that many community members have complained about the actual equipment and quality of the sound. He suggested taking a look at the system.

**Mayor Moran** reiterated that if the Redevelopment Agency meets on January 19 to discuss, the Board of Directors could finalize at their next meeting on February 7.



**15. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned until the February 7, 2017, Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors at 7:00 p.m. in the Lincoln Center Hearing Room.

**Hackett/Devanney**

**Nine Voted in Favor**

**Adjournment:** 9:35 p.m.

lm

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

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**Secretary, Manchester Board of Directors**