

Future Forecast Committee
Council Chambers
March 22, 2016
9:00 a.m.

Present:	J. Erardi	T. Einhorn	R. Bienkowski
	J. Vouros	A. Uberti	G. Faiella
	R. Harriman-Stites	C. Moretti	L. Weidenhamer
	K. Holden	L. Rodrigue	

Dr. Erardi spoke about the October 1, 2015 enrollment which reflected 1,323 students. Projected enrollment through 2015-16 remains accurate.

Mr. Vouros questioned the financial implications of shutting down a school, the actual cost of a move, and the possibility of re-opening the school.

Dr. Erardi said that Mr. Bienkowski would be available to update the financial analysis he prepared for last year's report regarding closing a school. Mrs. Davila will look at the instructional impact for all of the findings for the students.

Mr. Moretti said when we refer to an area that's a non-classroom space these rooms are still being used for various instructional purposes. There are no rooms not being utilized for instruction.

Mr. Faiella questioned if we currently have space for the programs we run.

Dr. Erardi said part of the committees work is to define what is in the rooms not being used for children full time.
Mrs. Harriman-Stites felt it was important to see the community impact of a building being used after school hours.

Mr. Einhorn has increased computer labs, repurposed some rooms for programs and moved special education classrooms closer to where students are during the day.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites said it would be helpful to get class information for all schools. She asked if Mr. Bienkowski's information would include the cost closing expenses.
Mr. Bienkowski said it would only include the operating costs.

Mr. Vouros wants to look at spaces that might not be optimal.

Dr. Erardi spoke about bringing someone with economic expertise regarding the town space and suggested Betsy Paynter from Economic Development.
Dr. Wiedenhamer asked if non-profit organizations or small businesses could use space in a school.
Mrs. Harriman-Stites suggested contacting Jennifer Barahona.

Mrs. Uberti asked if the Director or Pupil Services could do an analysis regarding the possibility of having in-house student programs.
Mrs. Davila suggested hearing what other districts are doing regarding having a blended learning environment.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites spoke about the Town Facilities Committee. The initial charge for this committee was to look at the Police Department, Hook and Ladder and the multi-purpose building. They did an analysis of buildings and departments in need of space. They also looked at Parks and Rec, social services and the Cultural Arts Commission that needed space. Hook and Ladder needed more work so they stopped looking at that building. They considered renovating or moving the Police Department and decided to move it. The senior center space could be used for another town department. They are in the process of getting information to possibly sell the Police Department building. The Fairfield Hills buildings are also being considered. The committee is at a standstill now.

Mrs. Holden felt that we need to consider the impact on schools if we have other offices in occupied schools.

Mr. Moretti said it would be helpful to know if anyone pays rent how that will financially effect who gets the rent. We need the fiscal parameters of moving a town department to a school.

Dr. Erardi suggested inviting the First Selectman for this discussion.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites said it would be helpful hearing from Betsy Paynter regarding commercial spaces in town.

Dr. Erardi would share the analysis done on the elementary and middle schools.

Mrs. Uberti has heard comments on closing a school. She suggested providing information on what happens if we close a school what the process was to reopen it.

Dr. Erardi would have that at the next meeting.

Submitted by: Kathy June