

SHERMAN BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CAPITAL PLANNING
FRIDAY - JANUARY 22, 2021
MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM

Vision Statement

**We enable all Sherman Students to become the best possible version of themselves.
We provide an environment where our children develop into empathetic, self-directed,
critical thinkers who don't give up when faced with challenges.**

The Special Committee on Capital Planning meeting of the Sherman Board of Education was called to order by Mr. Vogt at 3:31 PM on January 22, 2021 via Zoom.

1. PRESENT:

For the Board: Mr. Laughlin, Mrs. Seeger and Mr. Vogt
Administration: Dr. Melendez
Guests: Jeff Wyszynski and Justin Hopkins from Tecton Architects

2. DISCUSSED:

The committee reviewed the current status of the capital planning process to date. Discussion of alternative options to proceed were explored, Tecton was asked about the possibility of utilizing the work already completed in the planning process to provide additional options for consideration including a modified renovation, demolition and additions scheme with less square feet (1B) and a modified renovations scheme with a less intrusive scope focusing on utilizing existing built space (2B). Tecton was also asked about the possibility of a more robust schematic design for site planning specifically as it relates to playground replacement and siting based on future work that may take place to modernize the site to current safety and security standards.

Tecton suggested prior to engaging in further analysis the Board of Education develop a priority list to better articulate educational needs and ideal space requirements. Tecton also encouraged a more robust process to further engage the Board of Selectmen and attempt collaboratively to advance any future plans in partnership. Mr. Wyszynski expressed that concerns articulated during the planning process to the Tecton team regarding scope versus needs should be resolved prior to any further planning work being conducted. He also stated that while there may be some trade offs, a renovation project utilizing existing built space could still achieve similar, albeit different, outcomes potentially at a lower cost.

Mr. Vogt concurred with the importance of better articulating educational needs and ideal space requirements based on current and future enrollment, he emphasized the need for flexible spaces which in turn could reduce costs and better reflect future needs. Mr. Laughlin agreed and discussed the importance of moving forward in partnership with the Board of Selectmen in developing an alternative approach to meeting the capital needs of Sherman School in a comprehensive, coordinated and cost effective manner. He mentioned an upcoming joint

meeting between the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen where a conversation about next steps was planned.

Mr. Wyszynski confirmed that a phased approach, grouping larger projects together with creative use of required swing space could be possible and might be prudent to explore. Mr. Hopkins asked if detailed third party cost estimation would be requested in any further analysis.

The meeting concluded with a request that Tecton provide a cost estimate for an additional scope of work prior to the joint Board of Education/Board of Selectmen meeting regarding short and long term capital needs of the Sherman School inclusive of the elements previously outlined.

3. ADJOURNED

Meeting adjourned at 4:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Vogt
Chair, Special Committee on Capital Planning
Sherman Board of Education