

SHERMAN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CAPITAL PLANNING  
TUESDAY - FEBRUARY 23, 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 6:01 PM on February 23, 2021 via Zoom.

**1. PRESENT:**

For the Board: Mr. Berlandi, Mrs. Diotte, Mr. Laughlin, Mr. Neunzig (zoom), Mrs. Seeger and Mr. Vogt  
Administration: Dr. Melendez  
Staff: Ms. DePuy and Mr. Lombardozzi  
Public: 7 members of the public

**2. DISCUSSED:**

Dr. Melendez made the recommendation to the committee that it consider retaining the services of a consultant to help gather data from the town via survey. He stated that there has been a lot of different feedback received from various members of the town most of which is anecdotal and that the Committee would benefit from gathering factual data about the towns opinions. The committee agreed to recommend engaging the consultant to the Board at the next regular meeting.

Mr. Vogt Recommended extending additional walkthroughs of the school to allow constituents the opportunity to see the actual scope of the problems with the school first hand. The committee agreed to recommend extending additional walkthroughs for the public to the Board at the next regular meeting.

Mr. Laughlin began the discussion of including other stakeholders from the town to the Capital Planning Committee. He suggested that we extend membership to representatives from the SPTO, Sherman Educational Association, RTC, DTC, and Board of Selectmen. The Committee agreed to recommend to the Board that the committee expands its membership to include representatives from those groups.

The committee discussed that the Board rescinded its endorsement of the previous plan referred to as Option 3. Mr. Vogt stated that the problems with the school require a comprehensive plan in order to properly utilize tax payer funds so the Board will likely need to re-engage Tecton architects to expand on the work they have done to create other options to address the needs of the building. Mr. Laughlin stated that with any plan there will be soft costs to its development. The committee agreed to discuss this further with the Board.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Michael Capanzano of 9 Locust Lane stated that he had been present for the most recent walk through of the school. As a local contractor and business owner he came to the walk through as a skeptic based on what he had heard about the project and its costs. Mr. Carpanzano stated that after seeing the full scope of the issues that the building faces he understands that there are a lot of tightly interwoven problems that will not be simple to fix. He stated that a comprehensive project will be needed and that some parts of the school should likely be torn down completely.

Rosemary Dostilio of 41 Cozier Hill Road stated that the school needs a comprehensive plan and she is worried about the time it is taking to get that done. The project needs to be completed using sound decisions in regard to how it is planned.

Kerry Merkel of 14 Locust Lane stated that she used to design schools and that projects like this require comprehensive plans. She stated that schools are not easy projects and asked if there will be information about tax increases due to the project on any surveys that might be sent out in the future.

Susan Seeger from the Board of Education suggested that committee meetings be planned during regular board meetings to help notify other stakeholders in town of when they will be occurring. Mr. Vogt responded that many meetings are organized in response to new information or actions being required but will make an effort to at least schedule a meeting for that purpose.

**3. ADJOURNED**

Meeting adjourned at 6:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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