

School Board Liaison Report  
School Board Meeting 8/1/16

The Springfield School Board met on August 1, 2016 . Business was primarily limited to a discussion of personnel issues and an IDEA grant application. However there were two points of mutual interest:

- The School Board put forward a recent recommendation by the Joint Committee that the School authorize contracting for a marketability study.
  - My personal comments at the meeting on the subject were two-fold
    - I encouraged them to act on this recommendation because the exact same thing had been recommended by the last Park Street School Committee four years ago. But they indicated that they could not act on the authorization since there were only three board members present. Jeanice Garfield wanted to know if SOM and other stakeholders had been contacted, I indicated that they could always have public meeting discussions as part of the study. They intend to take the matter up again at the next meeting when it is scheduled.
    - Suggested that they might want to consider scrubbing “subsidized housing” from the scope of work unless they wanted to find themselves hanging from light posts around town, and that they should consider changing that to a “mix of public and private uses” . Am attaching a copy of the same.
  
- The School Board discussed some form of strategic public outreach and advertising to show off the innovative programs that the school was involved in as a part of advertising the community and assisting with the strategic plan in Springfield. Jeanice Garfield discussed a document she had compiled and thought something like that should be circulated at Town Meeting. I suggested that people tended not to read handouts, but that a video that could be shared on Social Media would be useful. Supt. McLaughlin agreed with the video concept. Garfield was to chair looking into this further. If the video was of sufficiently high quality it could be used as part of the economic development drive of the community.

Submitted: August 2, 2016

George T. McNaughton  
Selectboard Liaison to the School Board