

Temple School Subcommittee
of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 6:30 PM
In Person at the Temple Town Hall

FINAL Minutes

Attendees: Christine Robidoux, Gail Cromwell, Dana Nowell, Brandy Urbon, Kristen Reida, Jessica Hipp, Keith Charlton, Selena White (guest)

Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m.

1. Introductions & Roles – Attendees introduced themselves and discussed why they were interested in this committee.

A motion was made by K. Reida, second by B. Urbon to approve J. Hipp as chair. Motion carries, unanimous. A motion was made by J. Hipp, second by K. Reida to approve B. Urbon as secretary. Motion carries, unanimous.

2. Establishing our Purpose

Select Board Minutes, 11/23/2021: "Explore options for the long term retention of the town's elementary school which is also noted in Temple's Vision Statement (part of the Master Plan)."

The committee reviewed the Town Vision Statement. The purpose statement was revised slightly from the language used by the Select Board to establish the school subcommittee. The revised language clarifies that the Vision Statement is part of the Master Plan. A motion was made by K. Reida, second by B. Urbon to adopt the purpose statement as revised. Motion carries, unanimous.

3. Next steps

J. Hipp will ask Cindi Connolly about the Mason contact and invite the person from Mason to a future meeting. B. Urbon reports that Newcastle did something similar to Mason. They have their own school board. Building Block Commons is run by someone who is a friend of Brandy's. She thought about establishing it as a charter school, but ended up staying private. She may be a good resource if we want to explore the charter school route.

One of the needs identified on the CAC was childcare. Vivian Wills has been looking into this. It would also be great to have a before and after school program.

The goal is to keep a town school small, but we also need enough students to fund it. Has anyone done a financial analysis of what it's costing and what we're paying? Is there any state or federal money available? We can also look at numbers for the middle school.

Dana suggested that we should look at up-front costs vs. operating costs. Gail said that all that data is available on the Conval website. The booklet from the deliberative

session has all of this info. The entire budget is available online in extensive detail. The booklet will summarize it. We now pay \$2.7M to the school district with 150 students from K through 12.

Gail recommended looking at the *We Are Conval* booklet that includes statistics about scores. What are our children doing in terms of achievement? Conval is currently underperforming. What problem are parents trying to solve? Is it quality of education? Is it expenses? 72% of our taxes go to Conval.

Gail will get 10 copies of the books we need and leave them at the Temple Store. Special education and health insurance costs need to be distributed. Brandy will send links to budgets to Dana. Dana will help to pro-rate the costs to work with the budget.

Kristen will make a list of positions that are shared (ex. PE teacher, art teacher, nurse). Conval graduates stated that the social piece going into middle school should be considered (athletics, etc.). Kristen will also check with Liz Swan about student numbers at TES and elsewhere.

4. Meeting schedules

The committee agreed that Thursdays are a good date to meet. The next meeting date is TBD, based on the availability of the Mason contact.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jessica Hipp