

Don Cowart  
Superintendent

Jon M. Anderson, Esq.  
School Committee Attorney

Dawn Cabral  
School Committee Secretary



1675 Flat River Road, Coventry, RI 02816  
Tel. 401-822-9400, Fax: 401-822-9464  
TTY: 1-800-745-5555

**School Committee Members**

James Pierson  
Chairperson, District 5

Ana Isabel Dos Reis-Couto  
Vice-Chairperson, District 1

David Florio  
Member, District 4

John Cambio Jr.  
Member, District 3

Bradford Mayer  
Member, District 2

---

## School Building Committee Meetings

School Building Committee  
Blackrock School (Media Center)  
12 La Casa Dr.  
Coventry, RI 02816

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

1. Roll Call: Don Cowart, Dennis Delbarone, Phil Conte, Kristen Danusis, Kim Shockley, Kristin Bagley, Ana dos Reis-Couto, Russ Hill, Hillary Lima, James Pierson, Bob Civetti, Ed Warzycha, Aleita Hall, Christine Kennedy, Amy Anzalone
2. Emergency Evacuation Procedures Reviewed
3. Approval of Minutes (January 18) - All yes (unanimous)
4. Stage 2 Presentation: Discussion
  - a. Update on Feedback Received from Town Council and School Committee; Public Comment
    - i. Town Council feedback mainly from parents about size of the school, Council looking for more official statements, Need official letter from Bond Council - more info from the Bond Council tomorrow
    - ii. School Committee - No real feedback
    - iii. Teacher feedback - concerns about size of the building
  - b. Grade Configuration Discussion - Don proposed the possibility of reconfiguring the district to being a Pre-k thru Gr 2 at WO and WC and then the new school to be grades 3-5. The committee confirmed that they would like Don and Amy to research and present to the committee in the future for consideration.
  - c. Proposal Vote Public Awareness Strategy (Town Council, Feb. 7 and School Committee, Feb. 9) - Should we consider inviting parents to the two meetings to hear the projects? Immediately after the vote to stage two we should consider a focused campaign to inform the community about the project.

A conversation about the concern that capacity to bond and affordability has not been determined yet from Steve Masaroni and some of the financials that are not reconciled by the town. The town manager said this can reasonably happen soon.

5. Finance Update:
  - a. The Finance Director has no comment at this time.
  - b. We need to find out from Mario if we will lose the second \$8,000,000 as Pay Go money if we push to a November vote.
6. Capital Marketing Campaign Update: Discussion
  - a. Administration and teachers have been updated by meetings, newsletter and Zoom Meeting. Hillary and Don have done interviews with John Parente and Channel 12 interviewed Don and ran a print story. Grassroots stuff has begun. Also a parent pack has begun to take shape. Sarah Mangarelli has agreed to handle the treasurer type role and parents have been invited to participate in an advisory role for helping to fund the campaign. Newport did a great job running their advertising efforts and we should connect this parent group with them. We may want to look for professional marketing experience.
7. Potential Referendum Calendar: Discussion

- a. 1 week of early voting
- b. Mail ballots
- c. Do not need to have all poll locations open.
- d. Possible date is a May 2nd vote.
- e. Will investigate the November timeline at the next meeting.

- 8. Review of Project Deadlines and Timeline: Discussion - none
- 9. Public Comment - none
- 10. Next meeting will be Feb. 15th - Tiogue School
- 11. Adjournment at 8:04pm