

**Concord School District
Joint City Council/School Board Committee**

School Board Committee: Joint City Council/School Board

Date: September 16, 2011

Committee members present: Chris Casco, *Chair*, Kevin Fleming, Eric Williams

City representatives present: Tom Aspell, Dan St. Hilaire

Other Board members present: Kass Ardinger, Clint Cogswell

Administrators: Chris Rath, Michele Croteau, Matt Cashman

Committee chairperson Chris Casco called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Consultant Michael Castagna explained that his task is twofold. One aspect is to determine the present condition of the buildings, and what kinds of re-use they could accommodate. He will do "due diligence" to determine what it will cost to re-use the buildings to make them community assets. The second component of the task is to get citizen input as well as input from specific stakeholders. Following a consensus-building process, with the goal of maximizing participation of community members in developing a vision for these buildings, the feasibility of various options will be evaluated. Currently, he is meeting individually with various community groups. For example, the Chamber of Commerce, Concord Hospital, the UNH School of Law and NHTI are all being asked for their input and potential interest in any of the buildings.

"Listening Sessions" will be held over the next two weeks at 6 p.m., one session at each school. The sessions will be videotaped and broadcast on ConcordTV.

September 27 Rumford School

September 29 Dame School

October 4 Walker School

October 6 Eastman School

October 11 Central Office (38 Liberty Street)

The timeline for further sessions in different neighborhoods, with presentations and specific proposals, will occur in mid- to late January. Mr. Castagna noted he hopes that at least one and up to five plans will be presented for each site. He noted the possibility of several buildings achieving recognition on the historical register and, if that happens, they will be eligible for historical tax credits.

Also, abutting neighbors can contact Mr. Castagna individually in addition to attending the "listening sessions" if they like.

Mr. Castagna has also done private outreach to his client base of developers.

Chris Casco asked how the School Board controls the sale or future uses of the buildings. Mr. Castagna explained the need to include restrictions in deeds to prevent uses contrary to the Board's and the City's purposes.

Tom Aspell explained that the City puts covenants on the properties it sells so that the owners will pay full taxes forever. He explained that the City will also put timelines in place so that development is not prolonged.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Rath, *Recorder*