

Riverfield Elementary General PTA Meeting

February 9, 2012

Riverfield Building Project Overview

Overview

Riverfield Elementary School is currently in the beginning stages of a building alteration and expansion project. In December, the Board of Education approved the educational specifications for this project and sent a request to the Town's Selectman requesting a building committee be formed and a charge for this committee to be set forth.

On February 9, the BOS approved a building committee and charge for this initiative. The charge of our project and its committee members will then be voted on by the RTM (BOS is currently adding committee members). Once the charge and committee are approved by the RTM, the Riverfield Building Committee will then meet and request initial funding from these groups to begin the first, exploratory stages of the project. As the process continues, the Building Committee will present recommendations to these three governing bodies (BOS, BOF and RTM) for approval (i.e. design, funding, et al). A more comprehensive committee workflow process will be presented to Riverfield families once the approved Building Committee begins to meet.

Below is a high-level summary of the town groups involved in said process:

Board of Selectman

The Board of Selectmen is the town's executive branch policy making board, setting broad recommendations for projects, goals and issues affecting the town. The BOS is comprised of the First Selectman (Mike Tetreau) and two Selectmen (Cristin McCarthy Vahey and James Walsh). The Board of Selectmen discuss and vote on: budget and spending authorizations, labor agreements, bonding authorizations, legal claims, appointments to Boards and Commissions, use of town facilities and other items dictated by statute, ordinance and the Town Charter. The three-member Board is also ex-officio on the Board of Finance and RTM, and attend such meetings, as well as various appointed and elected board and commission meetings. The BOS meetings are typically held the first Wednesday of each month with time set aside for public comment.

Board of Finance

The Board of Finance is an elected board of nine volunteer residents who vote on requests to spend taxpayers' money, for example the annual town budget and capital projects. The BOF meetings are typically the first Tuesday of each month with time set aside for public comment. The current BOF members are: Robert Bellitto, Kenneth Brachfeld, James Brown, Christopher DeWitt, Thomas Flynn, Elaine Gaffney, Kevin Kiley, Mary LeClerc and Robert Stone.

RTM

An RTM member is a Representative Town Meeting delegate. There are 10 districts within Fairfield, 5 members per district. The RTM representatives, all of whom are volunteers, are elected officials who speak and vote on behalf of their districted constituents. Five districts represent the Riverfield School: District 1, 3, 4, 9 and 10. Your individual residence determines your specific district. To determine your District, please visit www.fairfieldct.org/rtmdistricts.htm.

The RTM is typically the last board to vote on funding requests (after BOS and BOF), including the annual town budget, capital projects and the RTM also votes on town ordinances; contracts between the town and town employees who are in bargaining units; and appointments to town boards and commissions. This group will vote to approve both the charge and committee members and ultimately project funding for our Riverfield building initiative. The RTM meetings are typically held the fourth Monday of each month with time set aside for public comment.

Looking Ahead

As a PTA, we are a nonpartisan organization. While this initiative operates within our town's governing bodies, our charge is to best educate parents of the process and parties involved and serve as an advocacy component to help promote the health and welfare of our children by promoting collaboration between parents, school and the community at large.