

COMMITTEE ON JOINT SCHOOL BUILDINGS

January 30, 2024 at 4:00 PM

The Clerk called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Terrio, Morgan, O'Neil and School Committee Members
O'Connell, Soule, Turner

The Clerk requested nominations for a Chair of the Committee.

School Committee Member Turner nominated School Committee Member O'Connell.
School Committee Member Soule duly seconded the motion.

On motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **School Committee Member Turner**, it was voted to close nominations.

School Committee Member Soule stated I want to make a couple of statements to the committee. First of all, I want to make sure that the Chair will listen to the input of each committee member, as our input is invaluable. I want to make sure that we speak as a committee, assuring that we stay on track and treat one another with respect. That the Chair understands and conveys the role of this committee is to oversee matters relating to building projects, being the eyes and ears of the city and the schools; not to run the projects and the importance of monthly status updates to the BOSC and Board of Aldermen through this committee assuring that information is accurate, as well as this committee determining the best ways to communicate the information to our diverse community. Lastly, with the committee, hopefully we will look to considering agenda format and set meeting dates for planning purposes. Thank you for considering the Chairmanship as the future of Manchester is with all our students who truly deserve facilities that will ensure through our curriculum and instruction that they are prepared for an ever-changing world.

Alderman Terrio stated I had asked Committee Member Soule to run for the Chairmanship. She is a former superintendent. She has overseen the construction of a new building. I think she has the resume and the perfect skillset to do this. Unfortunately, she declined because she doesn't have the votes. I think we are making a mistake. I would like to hear what Committee Member O'Connell's expertise in this area is.

School Committee Member O'Connell stated thank you Alderman Terrio and thank you to those who have nominated me for the Chair. The primary expertise that I bring to this table is the ability to chair a meeting, to do so to encourage complete congeniality, to ensure everybody's voice is heard and heard equally, to understand as a chairman you are one of co-equal people on the committee and you are just chairing that committee. I accept that responsibility and I am grateful for it. I heard what you have to say, Alderman Terrio. I am going to work over the next two years, because we will be meeting for the next two years at least on a monthly basis, to dispel or allay any fears that you might have about any partisanship or not being open to listening. In the end, this is a big project for the City of Manchester, its people, and especially its students

and families. It will only be successful if we can find cooperation and mutual understanding between both boards recognizing that there is a difference in view between the boards. I will be cognizant of the fact that the Board of School Committee is the committee that is tasked with planning and with implementing the plan as it is clearly envisioned under the statute. Clearly the statute also gives this committee authority and duties on construction of any schools and extensions, etc. I am choosing my words carefully to limit in any way answering overly. My answer to you is I will prove by action that I will be a good steward of this committee. I will be very careful to do so and I will listen to you or any other member of the committee who at any time thinks that a decision or anything else is in error.

City Clerk Normand called for a vote on electing School Committee Member O'Connell as Chair of the Committee. The motion passed, with Alderman Terrio duly recorded as abstaining.

2. Communication from the Board of Aldermen to the Board of School Committee regarding Phase I of the School District's Long-Term Facilities Plan.
(Note: Provided for informational purposes only; no action is required.)

Chairman O'Connell stated the other item of business on our agenda today is the communication from the Board of Mayor and Aldermen regarding Phase I of the School District's Long-Term Facilities Plan. It is included here in the agenda. I didn't make this agenda. That communication was sent from the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to the Board of School Committee. It was received by the Board of School Committee and discussed, and the response to that motion was crafted by the attorney of the BOSC and delivered to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for action at the next Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting. I do know that the intention here is to have a joint meeting as soon as practicable of both boards, which will be chaired by Mayor Ruais. At that meeting, the planners and any others associated with the process will be there to answer all the questions that any member of both boards might have, and answer them exhaustively. So, at the end of that joint board meeting, everybody has had their questions answered. That was the feeling and the decision of the Board of School Committee.

Alderman O'Neil moved to formally request that a joint meeting be held between the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the Board of School Committee. **School Committee Member Soule** duly seconded the motion.

Chairman O'Connell stated that is duplicative but we can certainly do that. To be clear, the motion is that this committee is asking the mayor to convene a meeting of both boards, where the planners will be available to answer questions with regards to the situation thus far.

Chairman O'Connell called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

1. The Clerk provides a brief overview regarding subjects typically handled by this Committee.

Chairman O'Connell stated I missed agenda item one. I thought number one was selecting a chair. The Clerk is going to provide a brief overview regarding subjects typically handled by this committee.

City Clerk Normand stated this committee is statutory in nature. For those who haven't had any experience with the Joint School Buildings Committee, the statute provides that you have oversight of the construction of school facilities in the City of Manchester. You have the duty to oversee and decide all matters relating to the construction and substantial renovations of school houses and submit monthly status reports relating to the construction progress; submit financial reports relating to total authorized construction budget and expenditures; and then anything else that is appropriated by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen is administered by this Committee in terms of construction and schools.

Alderman O'Neil stated when you look at the RSAs, they can be interpreted six different ways, I went back and tried to do some research and this is what I came up with. Certainly, School Committee Member Soule has been involved in one of these in Somersworth. Monthly progress reports on schedule, financial, contractual reports, and then we would approve change orders. Those are the two areas I have seen from the past. Attorney Chiesa could probably interpret some of the language differently but that is what I expect our role is.

Chairman O'Connell stated fellow committee members, we need to establish when we meet next and whether we want to choose at this moment the time and date per month since we will be having reoccurring monthly meeting.

Alderman O'Neil stated after hearing the juggling that School Committee Member Turner was doing with kids today, I am not going to complain about trying to get one to sports. If we can somehow try to balance... Tuesday is good for me. There are the current winter sports and those are probably going to change in the spring time. I know Alderman Morgan officiates. We are in one season now and in another month or two we'll be in another that will change some things. After hearing School Committee Member Turner about getting her daughter to McIntyre to teach, I'm not going to complain having one child to get places. If we can try to work within our home responsibilities, that would be appreciated. Tuesday is generally better for me.

School Committee Member Soule stated I suggest we get our calendars together and as soon as possible have another meeting to iron that out. We can set our monthly meetings as well as if we have to have extra meetings to substitute a date but I think we all need time to go home, check our calendars, and work this out together.

School Committee Member Turner stated I don't know if we anticipate a time-constraint for this meeting or if we intend on it being an hour. I know the BOSC meets twice a month on Mondays at 6:30 PM. It might make sense to have this committee meet at 5:30 PM on one of those Mondays. I could make that work with my schedule. I am not sure how that works with the BMA.

Alderman O'Neil asked do you think an hour is enough. Should we give ourselves a little more room? I think that is what you proposed.

School Committee Member Turner stated I am flexible; I can make it work. I don't know the constraints on how much time our meetings will take.

Alderman Terrio stated Tuesdays for the BMA meetings are just horrible. If Mondays are open before School Board meetings, it would probably be better for all of us because the Tuesdays that the aldermen meet are already booked up.

City Clerk Normand stated if this committee can meet at 4:00 PM, you can meet on Tuesdays of the BMA nights as well. That would give you an hour.

Alderman Terrio stated I think the meetings in the beginning might be a little long, but I think once we get going an hour is more than enough.

Chairman O'Connell stated I tend to agree. Do we want to take this off-line? The clerk that will be in attendance at these meetings each month will be Mr. Intranuovo or will it be different people?

City Clerk Normand stated it will be Mike Intranuovo.

Chairman O'Connell stated if we take this subject from now and do our mutual calendars, your office will be able to organize our next meeting.

School Committee Member Soule stated how about we schedule our next meeting at 5:00PM on the night of our board meeting, which is the second Monday of every month. That will get us started.

Chairman O'Connell stated I am good with that. My thought is, and I'd like input from the committee on this, a meeting of the joint boards is being organized through the mayor's office and will come sometime. I assume it will have notice as an official meeting. My question for the committee is, before we get to our regular monthly order, we could have a meeting in short-order. We could have a meeting in a week for instance which would have SMMA come in and go over what we have gotten so far or is that redundant and it would be better to wait for the joint board meeting?

Alderman Terrio stated it would be better to wait for the joint meeting.

Chairman O'Connell stated ok. We would take it as a motion that we will meet on the first Monday of February at 4:00 PM?

Alderman O'Neil stated second Monday at 5:00 PM or 5:30 PM.

Chairman O'Connell stated the BOSC meeting starts at 6:30 PM.

City Clerk Normand asked February 12.

Chairman O'Connell stated February 12. What time would you like to start?

Alderman Terrio stated 5:30 PM is fine.

Chairman O'Connell stated okay 5:30 PM.

Alderman O'Neil stated the aldermen are famous for pushing up against other meetings.

Chairman O'Connell stated if you think we'll have enough for an hour for our first meeting, that is fine. So that is when the next meeting is. At that time, between now and then we will have discussed through the clerk the right monthly date.

*There being no further business, on motion of **School Committee Member Soule**, duly seconded by **Alderman O'Neil**, it was voted to adjourn.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Normand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Clerk of Committee