

ELHS School Building Committee
School Committee Conference Room and Zoom Meeting
January 29, 2026, 3:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Stephen (Steve) Chrusciel, School Building Committee Chair
Gordon Smith, Superintendent of Schools (Absent)
Pamela Blair, Assistant Superintendent for Business (Absent)
Frank Paige, ELHS Principal
Heather Brown, ELHS Director of Curriculum
Kathleen Hill, Town Council Member
Elizabeth (Beth) Marsian-Boucher, Community Member (Absent)
Bruce Fenney, Superintendent of East Longmeadow DPW (Absent)
Dr. Daniela LaBarre, School Psychologist and Faculty Member (Absent)
Greg Thompson, School Committee Member
Tom Christensen, Town Manager
Kimberly Collins, Director of Municipal Finance
Ryan Quimby, ELPS IT Director

Other Attendees:

Ben Murphy, Lynn Banach, Richard L'Heureux, Skanska USA Building, Inc.
Dorrie Brooks, Aviva Galaski, Helen Fantini, JWA/SMMA Design Team
Danielle Judge, Mark Hogan, Jon Bracci, Michael Beaulieu, Tyson Garcia, Fontaine Bros, Inc.
Other Virtual guests:

Meeting Opening

- Meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by Steve Chrusciel.

Meeting Minutes Approval

- **A motion to approve** the 12/18/2025 meeting minutes was made by Tom Christensen and seconded by Ryan Quimby.
- There was an amendment made to say that Frank Paige was present at the 12/18/25 meeting
- The minutes were unanimously approved with following voting in the affirmative: Steve Chrusciel, Frank Paige, Heather Brown, Kathleen Hill, Greg Thompson, Tom Christensen, Kimberly Collins, and Ryan Quimby.

Public Participants

- There were no public participants

OPM Update

Budget Update:

- The current financial status of the project is in good shape. \$91,966,635 has been invoiced to date; \$82,842,270 has been submitted to MSBA's ProPay reimbursement system. The town has been reimbursed \$42,244,895 to date, with one reimbursement request of \$8,992,376 still pending reimbursement.
- The average rate of reimbursement from MSBA has been roughly 58%. Most invoices paid to date have been eligible costs.
- Project Contingencies are in good shape and are monitored regularly to ensure the project budget remains in good shape
- Greg Thompson was asking when we can discuss possibly spending some of the contingency that's available since we are in budget discussion times. There is a specific project he'd like to consider including which would be replacing the turf at the football stadium which is currently past its expected replacement period. If this is available, it would be a summer of 2027 project.
- Ben Murphy stated that before we start spending the contingency on items outside the project, we need to complete the moves that must be done between spring and summer for the school and Annex. Once we know those costs, we'll have a better idea of how much is left.
- Tom Christensen said the turf replacement was on the capital plan before the school project was passed. He would like to get it back on the capital plan for the simple fact that he would rather not pay for the cost over 30 years rather than just pay it over 1 year. The SBC agrees that it needs to be done, but Tom wants to see what the cost would be if the town took this on separately and utilized available CPA funds.

MSBA Update:

- There was a site visit on January 20th. No issues were identified.
- The PFA bid amendment is ready to be signed. Gordon Smith has already signed and Skanska will collect signatures from Steve Chrusciel, Tom Christensen and Greg Thompson at the end of the meeting.
- There are pending Budget Revision Requests that will be submitted once the PFA is fully executed for Design Amendments, Testing Services, and Move Services.

School Move Coordination:

- Skanska is working with a group of individuals at the school and district level to coordinate the needs for the Central Office move. We need to tour the potential site to see what we are working with so we can complete the RFP for submission which is tentatively planned for 2/9/26.
- Working with an Auction company to try to auction off some of the existing furniture in the building that is sellable. The equipment and furniture will be put in lots to be sold in bulk. The auction will be planned for some time in May, and items will need to be removed the day after school ends.
- Summer Move RFP issuance will occur concurrently with the receipt of spring move proposals. We'll be getting boxes for the teachers in the spring move.
- The items in the summer move will go to a storage area until it can be moved into the new school.

- Summer move will begin after the last day of school and since we've had 2 snow days, that will push the move day out.
- Should the district consider taking two days back from April vacation so we can be back on the original schedule. It would need to go through the school committee and union for a vote. The SBC agreed to wait until after February break to see if anything else comes up before a decision is made.

CM Update

Schedule Update:

- Working our way through the academic wings to finish those up
- Moving into the gym and auditorium to finish rough-in
- Kitchen and the auditorium have been inspected and ready to be closed up
- Staging is up in the auditorium to create a floor for the trades to work in the upper ceiling areas and drive their lifts in the area – this will take about 2 months
- Looking to start the power connections in the gym for the scoreboards and close those walls up with drywall
- Building A has been turned over to the painters in the office areas
- Pool building structural steel and decking is done and we're tenting the building up to work on the interior walls
- Trades are working well together and coordinating well to keep things moving
- Exterior metal panels are coming along well on the roof regardless of the cold weather
- Power distribution is on our side, and we are on track to turn power on in the building by March.

Design Team Update

Interior Construction Update:

- Dorrie showed the paint, tile colors and casework in E Wing
- Science lab casework is being installed
- The tiling in the hallway is coming along well and starting to look more complete
- Learning Stairs is at the heart of the room
- There has been much discussion about a mural going up in the gym which would be across the student seating and some mural options were shown that could be considered for the wall.
- A suggestion to engage a graphic designer to come up with a design was made
- There was question about whether we can fit the existing trophies in the new building and JWA showed the amount of trophy cases that would be installed in the new building as well as where the interactive touch screen will be for the hall of fame.
- There was a slide showing the school's mission statement being put on one of the walls and Frank Paige was suggesting eliminating that feature because the mission statement is up for review and revision and wouldn't want it to be obsolete right away
- Vestibule signage, history and language was shown – The President of the Historical Society is the individual who provided the story of the history that will be presented. He passed away last week and Greg Thompson suggested that maybe putting his name at the bottom as the author as well as a class of '80 alum and that should be noted. The SBC will confirm with his family to add his name.

Change Order #6

- This change order would increase Fontaine's contract by \$74,238.92. It is comprised of Additional scope for painting interior of concession building - \$12,339.12, Details of Non-load Bearing CMU wall - \$32,925.75, Steel Tariff for Metal Decking - \$1,929.08, Adult Toilet room lockset change - \$11,329.26 and PZT Camera location additions for ELCAT - \$15,715.71.
- **A motion to approve** was made by Greg Thompson and seconded by Ryan Quimby
- A unanimous decision to approve Change Order #6 with the following voting in the affirmative: Steve Chrusciel, Frank Paige, Heather Brown, Kathleen Hill, Greg Thompson, Tom Christensen, Kimberly Collins, and Ryan Quimby.

New Business

- The next School Building Committee Meeting is set for February 25, 2025, at 3pm

Motion to adjourn by Tom Christensen; Second, by Ryan Quimby.

Motion unanimously approved by all in attendance and online.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM.