

City of Cambridge

In City Council February 28, 1977

The *Committee* on Finance, comprised of the entire membership of the City Council, *to which* was referred alternate proposals for renovations and improvements at the Fletcher School after hearings held on January 12, 1977 and February 16, 1977.

PRESIDING: Councillor Duehay, Chairman of the Finance Committee

Reports, That the Committee met on January 12, 1977 to hear a progress report, from the City Manager, on the plans to renovate the Fletcher School.

The Committee heard from James L. Sullivan, City Manager, who outlined the study conducted by Dr. Collins who had prepared an Analysis of Educational Specifications for presentation to the State Building Assistance Board.

The City Manager stated that he had retained Architect Paul Feloney to analyze the recommendations of Dr. Collins.

Mr. Feloney, pursuant to the recommendations of Dr. Collins, had determined two parcels of land at 210-212 Elm Street would provide additional space if taken by eminent domain.

The City Manager further stated that eight parcels and twenty dwelling units would be required to carry out the recommendations of Dr. Collins and Architect Feloney.

The City Manager conferred with Conrad Fagone, Commissioner of Public Works, who estimated that the total amount of \$3,175,000.00 was needed to carry out the recommendations of Dr. Collins and Architect Feloney including site acquisition, fees and additions to the present Fletcher School.

The City Manager further stated that in order to make the Fletcher School comparable to other schools they would need to add 27,000 square feet to the school area.

Councillor Duehay stated that the City Manager should be talking about renovations of the present building rather than education specifications.

The City Manager replied that the architect had followed the specifications set out by the School Committee and cited the fact that Dr. Collins had recommended 50,000 square feet for a gymnasium.

Mr. Joseph Maynard, School Committee member, 214 Harvard Street, Cambridge stated that we are asking for bare necessities; that we are not asking for all those things that Dr. Collins included in his specifications; that the School Committee had no communication from Mr. Brown nor Mr. Feloney since this began; that we are being discriminated against; that we are asking for very little, not a new school and that we need the help of the City Council in obtaining this goal.

The City Council heard from Sara Mae Berman, School Committee member, who stated that as a member of the Committee of Building and Grounds the discussion was quite different from the recommendations as submitted by Dr. Collins, that the teachers at the school know of the space requirements and believe that a gymnasium with a roof will take care of play area requirements.

In response to a question by Councillor Duehay, Conrad Fagone, Commissioner of Public Works, stated that no price or costs were included in the report of Dr. Collins, that he had compiled the cost figures, that these figure were a bare minimum based on his calculations.

City Manager, James L. Sullivan stated that Conrad Fagone, Commissioner of Public Works had worked with the Architect, Paul Feloney, that the problem appeared to be, that the School Department requested Dr. Collins to make the

specifications, subject to the approval of the School Committee, that the architect had to then follow up on the specifications.

Councillor Duehay suggested that the City Manager, Conrad Fagone, Dr. Collins, the School Committee, the architect and Mrs. Blessington get together to determine what direction they intended to follow and further suggested that Mr. Maynard call a special meeting for this purpose at which time, the committee members, the parents and Dr. Collins would agree on a course of action.

Councillor Duehay stated that the City Manager would sit down with the above persons to see if they could agree on their goals and then secure approval for funding from the School Building Assistance Board.

Councillor Duehay further suggested that the City Manager get copies of the report submitted by Dr. Collins, the Educational Consultant, to the School Committee.

Ms. Alice Wolfe, School Committee member, stated that she supported the Fletcher School improvement as the number one elementary school project in the city and that we should act quickly to resolve this problem.

Councillor Duehay requested Mr. Maynard, School Committee member, to report back to this City Council in one week at which time a meeting would be set up with the School Committee to determine the cost and the course of action to be followed.

The hearing adjourned at 7:35 P. M. on January 12, 1977.

The second hearing on the Fletcher School proposals was held on February 16, 1977, at which time Chairman Francis Duehay stated that the City Manager had retained Architect Paul Feloney to develop alternate proposals for renovations which will cost from 1 million to 2.5 million dollars depending on the recommendations of the Architect.

The Chairman further stated that additions were under consideration plus renovations of existing facilities, that land taking was no longer an issue, and no extension of the existing playground was contemplated.

Councillor Duehay further stated that the City Council will review the size of the project and the specifications after the School Committee determines what is

actually needed and the City Manager recommends a course of action to the Council.

Councillor Duehay further requested that the City Manager report monthly on the progress made relative to the Fletcher School renovations.

For the Committee,

Councillor Francis H. Duehay
Chairman

3/14/77

Placed on file

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REPORT

Committee on

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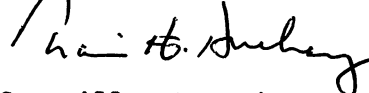
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For the Committee,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Francis H. Duehay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "F" and "D".

Councillor Francis H. Duehay
Chairman

10- 5- 134