

# SOUTH KINGSTOWN SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Kate Macinanti**  
*Chair*  
**Brian Mahoney**  
*Vice-Chair*  
**Brian Silvia**  
*Member*  
**Lucas Murray**  
*Member*  
**James Manni**  
*Town Manager*



**Terry Lynch**  
*Member*  
**Chip McGair**  
*Member*  
**David Palazzetti**  
*Member*  
**Michael Podraza**  
*Superintendent*

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## EVENT DETAILS

<b>TOPIC:</b>	School Building Committee - Regular Meeting
<b>DATE/TIME:</b>	September 28, 2023 – 5:00 PM
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Town Council Chambers, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, 180 High Street, Wakefield, RI
<b>LIVESTREAM:</b>	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/@sksbc/streams">https://www.youtube.com/@sksbc/streams</a>
<b>PUBLIC COMMENT:</b>	LeftField confirmed we're on track with the RIDE process. The October 24 meeting will involve the Town Council, School Committee, and project teams.

## MEETING MINUTES

Item	Topic
1.	<p><b>Call to Order/Roll Call:</b></p> <p>The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM</p> <p><b>Members Present:</b> Kate Macinanti, Brian Sylvia, Luke Murray, Bob Littlefield, James Manni, Brian Mahoney, Terry Lynch</p> <p><b>Members Absent:</b> None reported.</p>
<b>New Business Items:</b>	
2	<p><b>Approval of Meeting Minutes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kate M. shared a draft of meeting minutes that were uploaded to the Secretary of State's (SOS) website but not distributed to the committee.</li> <li>- Chair Macinanti announced that approval was tabled for the next meeting.</li> <li>- Lucas Murray mentioned a technical issue, as previously posted minutes appeared to have been removed from the SOS website. Chair Macinanti will investigate with the Secretary of State's office.</li> </ul>
3.	<p><b>Discussion/Action: Secretary Role Transition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Brian Sylvia announced his resignation as Secretary.</li> <li>- <b>Dave Palazzetti</b> was nominated and unanimously approved as the <b>new Secretary</b> following a motion by Terry Lynch and seconded by Luke Murray.</li> </ul>

4.	<p><b>Public Correspondence:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No new correspondence from community members.</li> <li>- Phil Conte (Studio JAED) shared news of Warwick School District approving a \$335 million bond for two high schools.</li> </ul>
5.	<p><b>Project Update – Stage Two Submission:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presented by <b>Phil (Studio Jade)</b>, Chris Spiegel (LeftField)</li> <li>- The Stage Two submission was filed on July 21, 2023, with supplemental responses submitted on August 21, 2023.</li> <li>- The early submission provided an eight-week buffer, allowing flexibility for addressing challenges while staying on schedule for December 2023 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).</li> <li>- Discussions with Town Council and School Committee to finalize financing are scheduled for October 24, 2023.</li> <li>- Clarifications: “Float” refers to extra time built into the project timeline without impacting final deadlines.</li> </ul> <p><b>Financing Plan Discussions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Key decisions revolve around financing levels of \$125M or \$150M for the project bond vote.</li> <li>- LeftField and Studio JAED are preparing updated financial plans and operational cost comparisons to present at the joint meeting on October 24, 2023.</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion on Athletic Fields:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chair Macinanti raised concerns about the potential health impacts of turf versus natural grass fields.</li> <li>- Committee members debated the pros and cons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Turf:</b> Increased usability but potential injury concerns.</li> <li><b>Natural Grass:</b> Lower cost and safer for athletes but limited playtime.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- The committee decided to explore cost differences and community preferences.</li> </ul> <p><b>Auditorium Sizing:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Current designs accommodate 800 seats; options for 1,000, 900, and 850 seats were discussed as potential adjustments for cost savings.</li> <li>- Kate Macinanti emphasized the need for community alignment on auditorium size.</li> </ul> <p><b>Utility and Operational Savings Analysis:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Committee members (Terry / Lucas / Kate / Brian) recommended calculating long-term cost savings of operating a new energy-efficient school compared to maintaining the current high school.</li> <li>- Lucas Murray mentioned creating plans to gather data on student retention through Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Website Updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The new project website <a href="https://skschoolproject.com/">https://skschoolproject.com/</a> is live.</li> <li>- Features include FAQs, project costs, and ride reimbursement rates.</li> <li>- Committee members were encouraged to provide feedback and share frequently asked questions to improve content</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b>Scheduling Next Meetings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A preparatory meeting for the October 24 session was scheduled for October 19, 2023, at 4:00 PM.</li> <li>- The October 24 meeting will involve the Town Council, School Committee, and project teams.</li> </ul>
7.	<p><b>Adjournment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The meeting adjourned at 5:34 PM following a motion by Terry Lynch and seconded by Luke Murray.</li> </ul>