

Resolve 3 – 06/07

Amended & Passed: 7/17/06 8-0 (Duson absent)

JAMES I. COHEN (MAYOR)(5)
WILLIAM R. GORHAM (1)
KAREN A. GERAGHTY (2)
DONNA J. CARR (3)
CHERYL A. LEEMAN (4)

CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

JAMES F. CLOUTIER (A/L)
JILL C. DUSON (A/L)
NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES (A/L)
EDWARD J. SUSLOVIC (A/L)

**RESOLUTION CREATING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FACILITIES
COMMITTEE AND APPOINTING COUNCIL MEMBERS**

WHEREAS, since 1999 the Portland City Council and the Portland School Committee have collaborated on the creation and implementation of a master plan for the renovation or replacement of the City's elementary schools; and

WHEREAS, to pursue this goal through collaboration, the City and the schools established and participated on a number of committees and task forces over the past seven years including an Elementary Facilities Task Force and a related committee informally known as the "3 x 3 Committee" comprised of three City Councilors and three School Committee members; and

WHEREAS, a report known as the Elementary Facilities Task Force Report was issued in November 2002 setting forth a three phase plan for renovating or reconstructing the city's elementary school facilities. The plan included "stop signs" at the end of each phase to allow the City to reevaluate the remaining phases in light of new information or changed circumstances; and

WHEREAS, on August 10, 2005, the Maine Department of Education listed the Nathan Clifford School as its top priority for renovation or reconstruction with State support, whereupon the Chairperson of the School Committee on October 26, 2005 established another Elementary Facilities Task Force (EFTF2) to review the prior facility plan and determine whether the phasing plan should be modified; and

WHEREAS, EFTF2 met for several months to address the prior phasing plan for constructing or renovating elementary facilities, and on March 2006, EFTF2 issued its final report indicating that the Task Force was unable to complete its review of the phasing plan and that further process would be required in order to complete the review; and

WHEREAS, on February 28, 2006, the School Committee and City Council held a Winter Summit during which the EFTF2 process was discussed, including the likelihood that this task force would conclude its work in the spring without a final recommendation. During the Summit, members of both the Council and the School Board discussed the importance of obtaining a final recommendation and the need to establish either a "3x3" or "4x4" Committee comprised of an equal number of City Councilors and School Committee members to finalize the review commenced by EFTF2; and

WHEREAS, in order to move forward with planning relative to Portland's elementary school facilities, including not only the planning related to the renovation or construction of the Nathan Clifford School, but also necessary repairs and improvements to other anchor elementary schools in the City, it is critical that the elementary school facilities plan and the phasing timeline be finalized.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Elementary School Facilities Committee is hereby established to be comprised of three City Councilors to be appointed by the City Council, and three School Committee members to be appointed by the School Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Committee's charge is to:

1. Review the Elementary Facilities Task Force report dated November 2002 and the subsequent EFTF2 report issued March 2006;
2. Review and analyze existing data regarding enrollment trends, facilities conditions, fiscal capacity and educational mandates;
3. Gather any additional data it deems necessary;
4. Recommend which elementary school facilities should be considered "anchor" schools to be maintained into the foreseeable future, including any findings necessary to allow the City to make necessary improvements or modifications to such schools pending more comprehensive renovation or reconstruction;
5. Recommend an updated plan for phasing the consolidation and renovation of elementary school facilities, including timeline and funding sources;
6. Work with and advise any architects or consultants retained to evaluate the feasibility of alternatives related to the Nathan Clifford School;
7. Hold public meetings to inform and solicit feedback from parents and the general public;
8. Submit recommendations to the School Committee and City Council by January 15, 2007; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council hereby appoints Councilors Nicholas M. Mavodones, Jr., James F. Cloutier, and Edward J. Suslovic as Council to the Committee with Councilor Mavodones to serve as Chair of the Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Committee shall be legally established and authorized to act when the three School Committee members of the Committee have has been appointed by the School Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appropriation contained in Companion Order 295-05/06 appropriating money from the proceeds of the sale of city property on Martin's Point for architectural and engineering design services for a proposed elementary school project shall be become available to the Committee as soon as it is established pursuant to this Resolution.