

Ad Hoc Polling Place Review Committee
September 13, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
Committee Room
Woburn City Hall
Woburn, Massachusetts

Attending: City Council President Paul Denaro, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor Marie Lingblom, Woburn Handicapped and Disabled Citizens Commissioner Jennifer Murray, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Joseph Elia, Republican City Committee Member Daniel MacGilvray, Democratic City Committee Member Joseph Demers, Unenrolled Voter Shaheen Mozaffar, Ph.D., and City Clerk William Campbell.

William Campbell began the meeting by stating his feedback from the public hearing that was held on September 12, 2012. He said that he had hoped that the committee's recommendation to consolidate elections to the Joyce Middle School would be supported by the public, but he was discouraged by the public's hesitation. However, he still recommends that the committee issue a formal recommendation to move elections to the Joyce Middle School. Marie Lingblom stated that the committee considered the consolidation options that the public mentioned. She said that she left the public hearing with a sense of support from the community. Daniel MacGilvray also left the meeting with a positive outlook from the community. He stated that the committee should forward its recommendation to consolidate to the Joyce Middle School. Jennifer Murray stated that she did not feel that the residents who attended the public hearing supported the decision to move elections to the Joyce Middle School, and President Denaro agreed. Shaheen Mozaffar stated that he believed the community was in favor of the consolidation. He explained that the committee's responsibility was to research possible polling locations in order to remove the elections from the elementary schools and to propose a recommendation for a solution. He stressed that regardless of whether the public supports the recommendation, the committee has thoroughly completed its work. Joseph Demers stated that from a legislative perspective, having three "no" votes from the aldermen who attended the public hearing would not look good when brought to the State Legislature. President Denaro stated that the City Council vote would have to be a 9-0 vote, but he added that he was not too concerned with the City Council vote because he felt that the committee was recommending the best solution.

Marie Lingblom asked if the City Council could consider alternative polling locations after the committee issues its recommendation. President Denaro replied that the Council may suggest alternative options, but the conversation between the aldermen will be based around the committee's report. In addition, President Denaro stated that the Mayor would also have to approve the committee's recommendation, to which Marie Lingblom stated that the Mayor supports a one-location consolidation. Daniel MacGilvray stated that if Woburn residents support the consolidation to the Joyce Middle School, it would sway their individual aldermen to support the consolidation. Assistant Superintendent of Schools Joseph Elia stated that he does not believe that the City Council will accept the

Joyce Middle School option. He said that residents should contact their aldermen if they support the Joyce Middle School consolidation.

Shaheen Mozaffar stated that one woman at the public hearing dismissed the security concerns of hosting elections in the elementary schools. He asked Assistant Superintendent of Schools Joseph Elia if the School Department receives calls from concerned parents about security, to which Joseph Elia responded that the School Department does not receive calls but school principals do. Shaheen Mozaffar acknowledged that the woman who dismissed the safety concern belongs to a minority group and that the majority of people are concerned about the security issue. William Campbell stated that the woman's child attends the Malcolm White Elementary School, which has a separate door that leads directly into the gym, where the elections are held.

President Denaro stated that whichever decision the committee makes, it has done its job. He stated that aldermen sometimes change their vote depending on public opinion. William Campbell stated that once the committee makes its recommendation, a report documenting all of the committee's research and the meeting minutes will be given to each alderman. President Denaro stated that he would not support a solution that involved holding elections in locations where children are located. Marie Lingblom stated that the goal of the committee was to remove the elections from the elementary schools. Daniel MacGilvray proposed that the committee keeps its recommendation for the Joyce Middle School consolidation. The motion was passed, all in favor. William Campbell stated that he would form the report that will be sent to each of the aldermen.

William Campbell announced that the next City Council meeting will be held on October 2, 2012. President Denaro stated that the committee's presentation would be added to the meeting agenda. He suggested that the next Ad Hoc Polling Place Review Committee meeting should be held before the City Council meeting so that the committee could make adjustments on the final presentation. William Campbell stated that he would forward Joseph Demers final presentation to the committee members through email.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on October 1, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Attest: _____
Megan Murphy