



Town of Berwyn Heights

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Minutes Special Meeting September 20, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Present were Mayor Cheryl Jewitt, Mayor Pro Tem (MPT) Jodie Kulpa-Eddy and Councilmember (CMs) Patricia Dennison. CM Christopher Rasmussen had an excused absence. Also present were Town Administrator (TA) Jessica Cowles (via telephone) and Clerk Kerstin Harper.

1. PGCPS proposed middle schools – letter of support:

Mayor Jewitt said that this meeting was added to discuss a letter of support for building 2 new middle schools in northern Prince George's County proposed in the Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) Fiscal Years 2018-23 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The letter was added to the agenda of the regular September 19 worksession late and did not allow enough time for the Town Council to familiarize themselves with the issue.

MPT Kulpa-Eddy explained that she drafted the letter over the weekend after she attended a public hearing on the CIP on Thursday night, September 15. Comments on the CIP are due this Thursday, September 22. The CIP funds 2 new middle schools: one in the Adelphi area and another in the Glenridge area, which will alleviate overcrowding in middle schools in northern Prince George's County. Berwyn Heights Elementary School (BHES) moved its 6th graders into 3 temporary classrooms erected in the school parking lot this summer because there is not enough room in the main building. The students were supposed to attend middle school in 6th grade, but Greenbelt Middle School has no room for them.

In response to Mayor Jewitt, MPT Kulpa-Eddy said there is potentially a safety issue for BHES sixth graders as they walk across the parking lot where cars also drive. However, teachers are watching them. TA Cowles said that she will raise the issue at a breakfast with Councilmember Glaros, at which Schoolboard Member Lupi Grady and PGCPS CEO Kevin Maxwell will also be present.

Mayor Jewitt said that the Education Advisory Committee (EAC) co-chair Katie Curtis submitted a comment about overcrowding and pest problems at BHES, which does not bear directly on the CIP. Mayor Jewitt said that, before the letter is sent, she would like to get the EAC's input on the middle schools and confirm the number of 6th grade students housed in temporaries. MPT Kulpa-Eddy also requested Clerk Harper confirm the years mentioned in the letter (when BHES was built, when it closed and when it re-opened) are correct.

CM Dennison moved and MPT Kulpa-Eddy seconded to approve the letter of support with the above conditions. The motion passed 3 to 0. The letter will be signed and sent on Thursday morning by email.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Signed: *Kerstin Harper, Town Clerk*