

Committee Members

Chairperson: Kelly Sweeney – Council member
Vice-Chair: Harold Panciera – Board of Education
Adeshola "Shola" Shokunbi
Andrea Dallas
Bobbie Knoll Peterson
Daniel Penny
John Giuliano
Kelly Lenihan
Kimberly Ciccia
Lauren Belair
Linda Salafia – Council member
Molly Carta
Patrick McKenna
Rachel Drake
Shanay Fulton – Council member
Susan Owens – Board of Education
Vacant (Arts)



Staff to the Committee

Steven Kovach, Chief of Staff

**Macdonough School Building Committee
MIDDLETOWN CONNECTICUT**

**MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026 – 6:00 PM
City Hall, Room 2028 and via Webex**

Committee Members/Officials Present: Kelly Sweeney, Harold Panciera, Bobbie Knoll Peterson, Daniel Penny, John Giuliano, Kelly Lenihan, Kimberly Ciccia, Lauren Belair, Linda Salafia, Molly Carta, Patrick McKenna, Rachel Drake, Shanay Fulton and Mayor Gene Nocera

Staff Members Present: Steven Kovach, Marco Gaylord (BOE)

Members of the Public Present: Randall Luther, Joe Vetro, Corey Morin, Kristen Colombo, Maghan Heslin, Krishna Winston, John Scheib and Sheila Daniels

1. **Call to Order:** Vice Chair Harold Panciera called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.
2. **Election of new Chairperson:** Harold Panciera nominated Kelly Sweeney to serve as Chairperson seconded by Linda Salafia. There were no other nominations. Vote: Unanimously approved.
3. **Public Session:** Committee members did introductions because there were several newly appointed members. Kristen Colombo spoke to adding solar panels to the project and urge the committee to make sure the construction manager is qualified to build net zero. Krishna Winston spoke to the impact of greenhouse gases and seconded Kristen Colombo's comments.
4. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. **October 28th, 2025:** Motion to approve October 28th, 2025 minutes by Lauren Belair, seconded by Kelly Lenihan. Vote: Unanimously approved.
 - B. **May 27th, 2025:** Motion to approve May 27th, 2025 and April 22nd, 2025 minutes by Rachel Drake, seconded by Kelly Lenihan. Vote: Unanimously approved.
 - C. **April 22nd, 2025:** (See above)
5. **New Business**
 - A. **Approve 2026 meeting calendar:** Motion to approve the 2026 meeting calendar by Lauren Belair, seconded by Kelly Lenihan. Vote: Unanimously approved.
 - B. **Macdonough School Building Committee Budget:** Staff provided context that the committee can transfer funds and create new line items if needed. Several questions were asked related to contingency, construction (solar), property acquisition and the playground line items. Motion to approve the committee budget by Daniel Penny, seconded by Molly Carta. Vote: Unanimously approved.
6. **Old Business**
 - A. **Update: Application to the State:** Marco Gaylord updated the committee that our application to the State was approved with a retroactive date to June 2025.
 - B. **Review and approve RFP to hire a Construction Manager:** Several questions were asked related to adding language to the RFQ to include experience with geothermal, solar panels and high performance buildings. Motion to approve the Construction Manager RFQ with language to include experience in geothermal, solar panels and high performance buildings by Shanay Fulton, seconded by Daniel Penny. Vote: Unanimously approved.
 - C. **Commissioning Agent:** No Update.
 - D. **Staff to the commission:** Steven Kovach will serve as temporary staff to the committee until a secretary is hired.

7. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Rachel Drake, seconded by Daniel Penny. Vote: Unanimously approved.