

The School Building Committee  
Middleboro High School – Auditorium  
September 2, 2015  
Provisional Notes

The meeting began at 5:15 PM.

Members present were Paul Branagan, Rob Desrosiers, Allin Frawley, Brian Giovanoni, Brian Lynch, Kathleen Piatelli, George Randall, Jennifer Wolfe, Jennifer Wrynn and Rich Young.

Also present was Colleen Lieb, Recording Secretary.

*Jason Tate, Communications Director, Office of Campaign Political Finance is present for the discussion.* Jason explained that the purpose of the presentation is to go over the use of public resources for political purposes. He further explains that the purpose of OCPF is that they are an independent non-partisan agency. Their director serves a six year term and they administer the campaign finance law and the disclosure of campaign finance activity. He briefly references the Campaign Finance Form #102. They audit campaign finance reports and make sure the money is both raised correctly and spent correctly.

Jason explained that public employees are prohibited from soliciting or receiving campaign contributions, directly or indirectly, 24-7, nationwide. He noted that Elected Officials are exempt. He also explained that the solicitation or receipt of campaign contributions is prohibited in buildings used for governmental purposes. This is prohibited even during non-working hours.

Jason explained “The Anderson Decision of 1978”. This was a case where the City of Boston appropriated \$975,000 to support a statewide ballot question. The court decided that public resources cannot be used for campaign purposes and that it was a matter of fairness in the electoral process. The finding that Ch. 55, S. 22A: “nothing contained herein shall be construed as authorizing the expenditures of public monies for political purposes.”

There is a question on who can advocate for the High School Building project. Jason speaks about not using town resources to get the word out for the project. He states that private emails should be used to advocate and there cannot be mass mailings done through the School. The robo calls are prohibited as well as sending the information home with students. There should not be anything in the school newsletter either.

Jason explained that his office is available at anytime to answer any questions involving relaying information regarding the project. They are committed to getting questions answered quickly and will review wording that is planned to be distributed to make sure that it meets their requirements.

There was a brief discussion on the ability of the Superintendent, who is elected, to go ahead and take a position on the ballot question. He can prepare material concerning the ballot question in the course of their duties and they distributed that material at meetings as well as upon request. The Superintendent can also speak to the press but he cannot do any fundraising.

Jason explained that if information is requested by a member of the public regarding the project, then material can be provided. However, it is not allowed to be randomly sent out. It has to be requested.

Jason spoke briefly about equal access from both sides to present their information to the public and how that works.

The presentation ended at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Colleen Lieb, Recording Secretary