

Monday, April 20, 1959

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A Special Meeting of the Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford was held on Monday, April 20, 1959, pursuant to a "Call" from the President, Mr. Norton Rhoades, at Burdick Jr. High School, Forest Street, Stamford.

The meeting was called to order by the President at 8:40 P.M.

For the reason that an invocation by a member of the clergy is not provided for special meetings, the President requested a moment of silence for meditation and prayer by the members in its stead.

ROLL CALL was taken by the Clerk. There were 39 present and 1 absent, the absent member being Michael J. DeVito.

The President read the "Call" as follows:

**BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES
STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT**

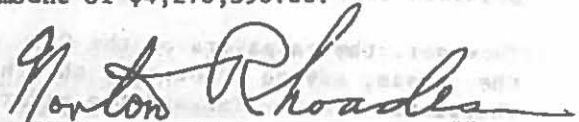
April 13, 1959

I, NORTON RHOADES, President of the Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford, pursuant to Section 202 of the City Charter, hereby call a SPECIAL MEETING of the members of this Board, to be held:

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 1959, AT 8:15 P.M.
IN THE AUDITORIUM OF BURDICK JUNIOR
HIGH SCHOOL, FOREST STREET, STAMFORD,
CONNECTICUT

for the purpose of acting upon the following matter:

Resolution amending 1958-1959 Capital Projects Budget for the construction of a new Senior High School, as proposed in the Mayor's letter of March 18, 1959 and approved by the Board of Finance on April 8, 1959 in the amount of \$4,278,390.00.


Norton Rhoades, President
Board of Representatives

MR. RHOADES: "The President has a task to perform which is very nearly impossible. As the members of the Board are aware, there has been a great deal of activity over the past few days in regard to the matter which is before us. This has resulted in a deluge of telegrams, letters, telephone calls, the like of which this member of the Board has never seen before. These are directed to all the members of this Board, but they have been sent to the office in the Town Hall and the President's home and his office. There seems to be no way in which these messages can be transmitted to the members of the Board.

"It would seem that the only way these messages can be transmitted is in the form of a very brief message as to what they say.

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"This Board received, several weeks ago, a communication from Mr. Frank Daly, representing the East Side Taxpayers Association, in which Mr. Daly suggested what seemed to be excessive costs of the new High School in which he emphasized the extra expense involved in the sewer construction and in which he made some specific suggestions as to how the problem of over crowding in the high school could be solved. One of these was a suggestion to add 25 rooms to the rear of the present high school building and to a section of the school behind that which would be available to all the boys and girls of the city. Mr. Daly's position is a consistent one which he has taken for many years.

"Shortly after that, we received a communication from the Chamber of Commerce, which requested that this Board consider very carefully that matter of this appropriation, especially in relation to the materials proposed to be used in the construction. It was not, however, a request that we turn down the appropriation.

"Aside from these two, we have officially received no requests, asking that we turn down this appropriation from any source whatever. We have, however, received a tremendous number of telegrams, letters and verbal communications by telephone, all urging the passage of this appropriation."

"We will now hear the report from the Fiscal Committee, which will be followed by the report of the Committee on Education, Welfare and Government, and any member who wishes to speak. It will be necessary for a vote of two-thirds of the members present in favor with a vote of not less than 21."

The President pointed out that Section 619 of the Charter, as amended by Special Act No. 290 (Approved May 15, 1957) governs the procedure in regard to additional appropriations.

FISCAL COMMITTEE - Mr. Huizinga, Chairman

MR. HUIZINGA: "Before making this Fiscal Committee report, I would like to preface the report with this comment: And, that is that we've been hearing a lot of information and misinformation for a very long period of time on the proposed new High School in Stamford. There is one thing that upsets me very much, and I think I can speak for my whole Committee - everyone is pressuring us to vote for this high school - we must have this high school. We have been deluged with telephone calls. I want to say this: As far as I am personally concerned, I know that we need a high school; we need it very badly - we should have had it before now and we should do everything we possibly can to supply this new high school.

"However, the taxpayers of the City of Stamford, and the people who are calling us on the 'phone, saying 'Vote for this high school' I don't believe have any appreciation whatsoever of the time and the effort that is being spent, day after day, week after week, by your Board, and by your Committee, in order to try and save the taxpayers in Stamford a few dollars. They know that we have to have this school. It is not a question of having or not having the school. The question before us is - are we spending too much money for this school? Or, are we building a school which is not safe for our children. That is the only thing that we as a Board are concerned about or that we as a Fiscal Committee are concerned about. It's not that we don't need a high school, but is the high school that we are planning to build going to cost us too much money, and can we get it built cheaper, and is it safe for our students? That is one thing that no one seems to be thinking about at all, and that is one thing that your Committee and your Chairman personally resent.

"Your Committee met in the Mayor's office on April 18th at one o'clock until almost 5 o'clock on Saturday afternoon. Those present were Mrs. Zuckert, Messrs. Wynn, Cummings, Topping, Fortunato, Kolich and your Chairman. Mr. Robertucci was absent.

"With the Committee met the President of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools, other members of the Board of Education, members of the Kalwall Company, who are applying the exterior wall, the Architect and his Associates, the Chief Engineer, I believe and also members of other committees of the Board of Representatives. In fact, I believe we had about 25 or 26 people present.

"The meeting was called for only one purpose - and that was, to reiterate - to find out whether or not Kalwall was, in our opinion, a safe substance to use in the construction of this High School, and also the additional appropriation which has been referred to us should be reduced, or passed as is.

"One half of our discussion was taken up with Kalwall. We went into every single possible phase of this material, and into all the ramifications, which were pretty technical.

"I am making this as an oral report tonight, instead of written, because there were so many things covered in this meeting which lasted all afternoon, that if I wrote a report on it, we would probably be here for an hour or two just giving this report.

"After the discussion was ended and there were no more questions. then we discussed the over all picture insofar as the cost of this high school, to try to determine whether we were paying too much for it as compared with other cities, other schools, other private schools, etc. We had figures given to us by people, claiming that the cost of construction of other schools in the state and other private schools in the city did not compare favorably. But, unfortunately the figures that were given were not backed up by documentary proof and so I cannot mention any tonight.

"After thorough discussion of the pros and cons of the matter, it was moved that the Committee recommend the additional appropriation of \$4,278,390.00. This motion was seconded and it was passed unanimously by your Fiscal Committee, and it was decided that we make this report to this Board.

"However, in view of the size of the appropriation and in view of the importance of the item involved, the Chairman told each member of the Committee that they were relieved absolutely of voting with the Committee. Generally speaking, when we have a Committee report, everyone votes in favor and we expect every member on the committee to abide by the vote and recommendation. However in this situation, if any member of our Fiscal Committee has had any change of mind since our meeting, or has received any additional information, he has a perfect right to get up and speak for or against it, and bring out any point that came out in our meeting or any information that he received afterward.

"But, insofar as the official vote of the Fiscal Committee was concerned, it was moved that we bring this to the floor of the Board meeting. Therefore, Mr. President, I MOVE that we approve an additional appropriation of \$4,278,390.00 for the building of the new Stamford Senior High School."

MR. RHOADES: "That would be in the form of a resolution, Mr. Huizinga---- 'Be it resolved that this Board approve an appropriation, etc.....'."

MR. HUIZINGA: "Yes - that is the motion. And, if there are any questions whatsoever, I am sure that every member of the Fiscal Committee can answer any question that comes up."

MR. CUMMINGS introduced the following resolution, for the record, as follows, and MOVED its adoption:

April 20, 1959

RESOLUTION NO. 296AMENDMENT TO CAPITAL PROJECTS BUDGET FOR 1958-1959 BY
ADDITION OF ITEM IN AMOUNT OF \$4,278,390.00 TO BE KNOWN
AS "SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL"

BE AND IT HEREBY IS RESOLVED by the Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford, pursuant to Section 611.5 of the Stamford Charter, to approve an amendment to the Capital Projects Budget for the year 1958-1959 by including therein an item in the amount of \$4,278,390.00 for a new "Senior High School", and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to approve the appropriation of \$4,278,390.00 for said "Senior High School", which said sum is to be financed by the issue of bonds.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, WELFARE & GOVERNMENT:

MR. MACRIDES: "The Committee on Education, Welfare & Government met at the same time with the same group. At that time the Committee took a vote and the vote was split evenly in terms of the approval of the amendment to the Budget. The members who voted against it felt that the cost was excessive, but had nothing against the high school itself.

"The members who voted for it felt very vehemently and strongly that we cannot fool around any longer. Now's the time to get the high school started - that the cost was not excessive and that we are getting well worth our money - the money that is being put into the construction of the school.

"Therefore, as an individual, rather than as the Committee Chairman, I would like to SECOND the motion for the adoption of the resolution, and I would also like to add an amendment. The amendment being that since the matter is of such great moment that we should go on record individually as to what our feelings are and we should therefore have a roll call vote."

MR. RHOADES: "Your report will be accepted as a second to the motion. Everyone will have a chance to be heard on this question. Those in favor of a roll call vote will please raise their hands."

A show of hands indicated that a roll call vote was APPROVED.

MR. VITTI MOVED for a five minute recess; seconded by Mr. Connors and CARRIED by a vote of 21 in favor and 18 opposed. The Board recessed at 8:05 P.M.

The recess was over at 8:35 P.M. and the meeting was called to order by the President.

At the end of the recess. Mr. Kolich asked Mr. Huizinga to clarify certain facts in regard to material to be used on the high school, namely, "Kalwall".

The pros and cons of how various savings might be achieved were discussed at great length by the members.

A great deal of discussion also took place regarding the safety and economy of the use of "Kalwall" in the construction of the new school.

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A second recess was declared at 11 P.M. for a caucus.

The recess was declared over at 11:15 P.M.

MR. RHOADES announced that in view of the lateness of the hour that the Steering Committee meeting previously scheduled would not be held this evening, but the following Monday, April 27th instead.

A ROLL CALL vote was taken by the Clerk on Resolution No. 296, previously moved by Mr. Cummings and seconded by Mr. Macrides.

The following is the ROLL CALL vote, which was CARRIED by a vote of 35 in favor, 4 opposed and 1 answering present:

<u>THOSE VOTING IN FAVOR:</u>	<u>THOSE OPPOSED</u>	<u>ANSWERING PRESENT</u>
(R) Ellis B. Baker	Rocco G. Colatrella (D)	Thomas D. Roche (R)
(D) Fred C. Blois	Frank W. Longo (D)	
(D) George V. Connors	Joseph P. Milano (D)	
(R) Joseph A. Cullen	Vincent J. Vittti (D)	
(R) Jack S. Cummings		
(R) John L. DeForest		
(D) Patrick J. Fortunato		
(R) Alanson R. Fredericks		
(D) George Georgoulis		
(D) Bernard Geronimo		
(R) William G. Hearing		
(R) Virginia D. Horner		
(R) Rutherford G. Huizinga		
(D) Stephen E. Kelly		
(R) Alan H. Ketcham		
(D) Anthony Kolich, Jr.		
(R) Robert Lewis		
(D) John C. Macrides		
(R) John Maffucci		
(D) Anthony F. Marciano		
(R) Jack McLaughlin		
(D) William D. Murphy		
(D) Llewellyn J. Nilan		
(D) John R. Nolan		
(R) Norton Rhoades		
(D) Peter J. Robertucci		
(R) George E. Russell		
(D) Gerald J. Rybnick		
(D) Peter C. Sileo		
(R) Thomas J. Topping		
(D) Anthony D. Truglia		
(R) Julius M. Wilensky		
(D) Edward P. Wynn, Jr.		
(R) Doris M. Zuckert		

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 P.M. by motion, duly seconded and CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Velma Farrell
Velma Farrell
Executive Secretary

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April 20, 1959

APPROVED

Norton Rhoades

Norton Rhoades
President

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