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WELLINGTON SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
April 10, 2013  
Wellington School Community Room  
7:30 AM

**Meeting #165**

Committee Members Attending: Patricia Brusch, Laurie Graham, Bill Lovallo, Heidi Sawyer, Eric Smith

Liaisons Attending: Dr. Thomas Kingston, Amy Spangler, Fred Domenici

Acentech: Alicia Wagner

**Neighborhood Meeting concerning the Wellington School**

At 7:00 p.m., Eric Smith called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. He then asked that Bill Lovallo provide a summary of the work that the WBC had accomplished on the rooftop noise mitigation since the last time the WBC met with the neighbors.

Bill Lovallo summarized the work on moving RTU #3, increasing the height of the screening at RTU #3, infilling the south screen wall opening, lowering the screen wall at the south, east and west elevations, and installing baffling at three roof top units. This work was consistent with the discussions that the WBC had with the Planning Board through the Site Plan Review process. Concurrently the WBC has been assisting the School Department in addressing the issue of equipment operation during School unoccupied times and expects further improvements in the controls of the units as more systems controls are put in place.

Mr. Lovallo explained that the next steps would be to return to the site and take acoustic measurements to document the measured change in noise levels in the neighborhood. During that effort, the expectation is to locate and identify the low-frequency noise that neighbors report that they are hearing at disturbing levels.

Eric Smith then asked if there were any comments from the neighbors. The following are comments that expressed by the neighbors and liaisons:

- Monica Sainsbury (Colonial Terrace) stated that the nighttime noise continues even as recently as the previous night.
- Margaret Waters (Orchard Street) stated that units need to stay off during unoccupied times.
- Ruth Gow (Glendale Rd.) stated that the low frequency hum sounds like a car idling.
- Darrell King (Long Avenue) recommends that the building management system have more control so that the School Department can manage the operation of the RTU's.
- Fred Domenici of the Belmont Public Schools noted that the building management system has data recording built into the system that can record if and when systems are operating during the course of the day.

- Susan Carey (Orchard Street) stated that the most annoying noise occurs during the early morning.
- Doug Koplow (Oak Avenue) recommends that low frequency testing should be done.
- Alicia Wagner of Acentech responded that the testing that will be performed will measure the low and high frequency ranges.
- Judith Sarno (Waverly Terrace) recommended that, if boilers are contributing to the sound, that they should be insulated.

Bill Lovallo followed up the comments by stating that the WBC is interested in determining the nature of the rooftop noise and if there persists an issue such as boiler noise, then the WBC will pursue options to mitigate that noise. The past year is an example of the WBC listening to the neighbors' comments and working to address the concerns. While some issues have been addressed, there continue to be conditions that will need further effort and the WBC will not stop working at these issues even if the final Site Plan Approval and Certificate of Occupancy are issued.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patricia Brusch".

Patricia Brusch  
Vice Chair