

MINUTES
OPC MEETING
October 20, 2011

First Selectman David Campbell called the meeting to order at 8:17 a.m. in Room 206 at Town Hall.

Present were First Selectman, David Campbell; Selectman, Jayme Stevenson; Board of Finance Chairman, Liz Mao; Board of Education Chairman, Kim Westcott; Board of Education Vice- Chairman, Betsy Hagerty-Ross; RTM Representative, Mary Guimond and Town Administrator, Karl Kilduff.

Board of Education

Ms. Westcott announced that the Board of Education has hired a new Facilities Director, Michael Lynch. The BOE Administration and BOE members are pleased he has accepted the position and look forward to the contributions he will make to the Darien School District.

The Board continues to be concerned with Special Education costs. CT is the only state where the Burden of Proof remains on the school districts. Other communities in CT also struggle with these costs.

Ms. Westcott noted that this year marks the tenth anniversary of the Student Exchange Program with China. The program has proved to be as rewarding for Darien students and families as it has been for the students from Qingdao.

Betsy Hagerty-Ross mentioned that next Tuesday is Kim Westcott's last meeting as Chairman of the Board of Education. An invitation was extended to the members of OPC to attend a short ceremony before the Board meeting on Tuesday, October 25, 2011 to recognize Ms. Westcott for her years of service and the contributions she has made to support the highest standards of education in Darien.

Board of Finance

The Board of Finance voted four to three to approve the bonding for the proposed BOE Central Offices/Mather Community Center. The Five Year Forecast Board will begin working on the State of the Town in early December.

RTM Representative

Ms. Guimond stated that the RTM Public Health & Safety Committee and the Parks & Recreation Committee will hold a joint meeting on Wednesday, October 26, 2011 at 7:30 PM to discuss all aspects of the BOE Central Office/Mather Community Center project. The Finance & Budget Committee of the RTM will meet that evening regarding the same proposal.

First Selectman

Mr. Campbell stated that he intends to notify Karen Armour, RTM Moderator, that he will be requesting a Special Meeting of the RTM on November 1, 2011 to vote on the BOE Central Office/Mather Community Center project. The group discussed the benefits

of the project and the need to vote with the present RTM in office, as they have been aware of the studies and reports on the facilities that have taken place over the last two years.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 17, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 206.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O'Leary
Recording Secretary