

# **BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

## **MINUTES**

**Monday, September 17, 2007**

**Oliver Administration Building**

### **Present**

**Subcommittee: William O'Dell, Paul Brulé, David Dugan, William Estrella**

**School Committee, Administration and Staff: Diana Campbell, Karen Lynch, Marjorie McBride, John Saviano, Edward Mara, Jane Correia, Pauline Silva, Tracey McGee, Beth Penkala and Michael Carbone**

**Other: Dale Aubrey**

**Bill O'Dell called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.**

**Public Comment: None**

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Bill Estrella motioned to approve the minutes to the August 27, 2007 meeting; Paul Brule seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **Warrant Review**

**John Saviano asked for an explanation of some of the payments.**

**Jane Correia responded:**

**&#61607; Paramount Restaurant Supplies—ovens for the high school to correct fire code violation**

**&#61607; Pioneer Manufacturing—striping for the new Mt. Hope parking lot**

**&#61607; First American—Flood insurance for Mt. Hope and Guiteras (required)**

**&#61607; Roger Williams University—graduation**

**MOTION: Bill Estrella motioned to approve; Paul Brule seconded.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

## **Reynolds Garden Project**

**Bill O'Dell voiced concern about proceeding with the project in light of the unsettled future of the Reynolds building; he is leery about the blacktop being dug up.**

**Tracey McGee reported they have concluded that whatever they do will have to be portable, plantings will be in containers that could be brought home by the students at the end of the year; however, until a decision is made they will not move forward. The goal of the grant is to create a sustainable garden—it can be portable. Diana Campbell**

stated that if Arts Magnet remains at Reynolds, there is a good chance the building would be renovated which would impact the surrounding grounds. Paul Brule stated that this is all budget-driven and he agrees with the portable approach. Bill O'Dell suggested they "circle the airport a couple of times." Marjorie McBride commented that the ideas are clever and a good use of the money. Tracey reiterated that there are many people in this community who want to put their hands into a garden project.

Tracey McGee left the meeting at 6:25 PM.

#### **Mt. Hope Athletic Field**

Beth Penkala reported the following items need to be addressed in order to certify our facilities to host track meets:

&#61607; Standards for pole vault and pole vaulting equipment

&#61607; A second circle for discus and shot-put

&#61607; Fencing needs to be altered to a different angle or extended

&#61607; Long jump needs to be extended

Additional events have been added since the facilities were installed six years ago. Beth also mentioned that portions of the fencing around the football field are collapsing.

Marjorie McBride said two options for the fields are being discussed with town officials—1) the Bristol Recreation Department take over

the fields, or 2) the District hold on to them. Until this decision is made, it does not make sense to invest money in an architectural review. Diane Campbell said track meets are a draw and can be a money-maker. Paul Brule asked if the Town took responsibility for the fields, would they also take the gate receipts. Marjorie McBride is not in favor of giving the fields to the Town.

**MOTION:** Paul Brule motioned to direct administration to develop a plan with details of what is needed to upgrade the high school field and make it suitable to host track meets. Bill Estrella seconded.

Paul Brule amended his motion to include Naomi Field. Bill Estrella seconded. The motion to amend passed unanimously.

Discussion followed about the Master facilities plan, the possibility of a new school, and the condition of the soil. Beth Penkala mentioned that some of the practice fields were watered with a make-shift sprinkler system by the Pop Warner coaches; also cars and trucks are being driven onto some of the fields at Pop Warner events. Handicap signs need to be reinstalled and hay bails to prevent driving on the fields. The motion, as amended, was approved by a vote of 4 to 0. Jane Correia will arrange a meeting with Pop Warner and the options for field responsibility will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Beth Penkala left the meeting at 6:44 PM.

## **Kickemuit Sign**

**Mike Carbone and Dale Aubrey presented the proposal for the sign (attached). Mr. Mayo has endorsed the proposal and the addition to the top with the LED sign will perfectly match the existing structure. Since DOT has refused to install traffic signals in front of the school, at the appropriate times, the sign would read “Children Crossing” and Amber Alerts could be posted. The message is changed from inside the school by computer and the sign poses no visibility issues. The cost is \$19 – 25,000 and will be paid by the Parents Association.**

**MOTION: Bill Estrella motioned to approve the installation of the proposed sign at Kickemuit Middle School; Paul Brule seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Michael Carbone and Dale Aubrey left the meeting at 6:50 PM.**

## **Guiteras Sign (Playground Thank-you)**

**Signs that are temporary and portable do not require a permit.**

**MOTION: Bill Estrella motioned to approve the signs for the Guiteras Playground; Paul Brule seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 4 to 0.**

## **Update on Main Street Closing**

**Ed Mara reported the project is moving forward, the maintenance garage and shed are being cleaned out and the utilities building is being reorganized and is 75% ready. Estimates for electric and**

climate control are in the \$150,000 range, which is what has been budgeted. Paul Brule cautioned that the electrical service must be non-interruptable with generator back-up; the pole drop is there. Ed Mara said Lou Torrado assigned a new hire to this project; we will meet the deadline of June 30; the only good time to cut over is July. Bill O'Dell said it will have to be earmarked for next fiscal year; this will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Diana Campbell asked about the proposal from St. Michael's regarding space for GED classes. Ed said Myra Webster has been meeting with the Reverend; he will ask Myra for an update.

#### **Colt Andrews – Fiscal Concerns of Move**

Bill O'Dell questioned the role of this Subcommittee in this process; he feels the Subcommittee needs to hear from the Superintendent in terms of just how his plan will impact the budget and facilities. Diana Campbell asked how this impacts the Phase II Task Force.

#### **Comments:**

Bill Estrella—The size of this issue requires the full School Committee with Andrew Henneous; from a political standpoint, the full Committee and the public needs to be involved and discussion will cover much more than budget.

**Paul Brule—If any amount of money is involved, it must come before the Budget Subcommittee.**

**Ed Mara—Bob Pugh, George Simmons, Jane Correia and he discussed hiring a professional mover.**

**Marj McBride—The Phase II Task Force needs to look at what the next bond would be; when we did the initial planning for the elementary facilities project, we never looked at programming because the goal was to close buildings; in the process, the Warren students at Reynolds were reflected in Hugh Cole.**

**Bill O'Dell—Budgets and facilities are the responsibility of this Subcommittee; the Personnel/Contract Subcommittee also needs to look at this; this Subcommittee needs to assess whether the numbers add up and should be discussed further at another meeting.**

**John Saviano—If there are 449 students in Byfield and Reynolds combined, and 432 seats at Colt Andrews, if enrollment drops a little there is room at Colt Andrews.**

**Marj McBride—Other districts are increasing their class size.**

**Karen Lynch—She would never have pushed for the bond if she thought the Arts Magnet Program would not stay together.**

**After further discussion Bill Estrella said Ed should speak to each School Committee member individually so they can exchange thoughts; the formal recommendation can be made at the October meeting. Paul Brule had no comment. David Dugan is wavering but leaning toward Bill Estrella's views. As Chair, Bill O'Dell feels this Subcommittee has a responsibility to watch the numbers and report out to the full Committee. John Saviano stated it is important to hash this out ahead of time; he also asked if, in view of NCLB, the Arts Magnet Program and lottery are legal. Ed will consult Andrew Henneous. Bill O'Dell and Bill Estrella will meet with the Superintendent to determine the appropriate course of action.**

#### **Budget Review -- FY 2008**

**Pauline Silva reported the change over from the old to the new number system is slow and arduous; however, data collection and reporting is exact and detailed. Jane Correia suggested a formal explanation and presentation at the October Workshop.**

**Capital Projects – Jane Correia reported \$1,017,149 in available funding for FY 2008; after current and projected spending there is an uncommitted balance of \$519,875. Diana Campbell mentioned the paint chips falling on parents at the meeting held in the Guiteras Gym; Jane said there is a leak in the roof and maintenance is taking care of it.**

## **Budget Planning – FY 2009**

**Jane Correia had nothing new to report tonight, much more about the increase in employer contribution and other needs will be known in late October or November. At this time, the increase in contribution is expected to be at least \$400,000.**

## **Audit Status – FY 2007**

**Jane Correia explained the auditors finished on Friday and as of this time we are in total compliance.**

## **Audit Extension – FY 2008**

**Since we are the only school district in Rhode Island using this chart of accounts, the 2008 audit will have to be done with new auditing standards; Jane and her staff and our auditor have been invited by the Auditor General to all their meetings. We are due to go out to bid for an auditor this year; the Auditor General has given a one-year extension to our current firm, who has recently changed their name to Braver, Inc.**

**MOTION: Bill Estrella motioned to authorize administration to consult our current auditors about a fee and the nature of the one-year extension. Paul Brule seconded; the motion passed unanimously.**

**Pauline Silva left the meeting.**

### **Executive Session – 8:00 PM**

**In accordance with Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), 2(b), Bill Estrella motioned to go into Executive Session at 8:00 PM to discuss contract concerns. Paul Brule seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Resumption of Meeting – 8:06 PM**

**Discussed in Executive Session were contract concerns.**

**MOTION: Bill Estrella motioned that the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee endorse administration's recommendation to change the Physical Therapist position from a consultant arrangement to a full time employee to fill an unfunded mandate. Paul Brule seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 4 to 0.**

### **Next Meeting**

**The next meeting will be Monday, October 1, 2007, 6:00 PM, in the Oliver Administration Building.**

### **Adjournment**

**At 8:07 PM, Paul Brule, seconded by Bill Estrella, motioned to adjourn; the motion passed unanimously.**

**/ca**