

BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, April 21, 2008

Oliver Administration Building

Present

Subcommittee: William O'Dell, David Dugan and William Estrella

School Committee, Administration and Staff: Diana Campbell, John Saviano, Paul Silva (6:15), Edward Mara, Jane Correia and George Simmons

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

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: David Dugan motioned to approve the minutes to the March 31, 2008 meeting; Bill Estrella seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Warrants

No concerns.

Budget – FY 2008

Jane Correia reported there are two areas where we will obtain a one-time savings. The conversion from Budget Sense Version I to Version II created an accounting adjustment in the amount of \$101,000; the application of summer co-pays to the proper year resulted in two summers of co-pays applied to this one year. The other savings, \$94,000, came from not hiring a substitute librarian for Mt. Hope. Jane Correia and Ed Mara would like to use this money for two things-- re-creation of a language lab at Mt. Hope and the upgrade of two maintenance vehicles.

Language Lab: Dr. Mara said the students have been hampered without a lab and the staff is very excited about the possibility; NEASC cited us for not having one. In order for the lab to be complete by September, a decision would have to be made within two weeks. After discussion about budget concerns and the inability to make such a decision until funding needs are firmer, no recommendation was made.

Maintenance Vehicles: George Simmons' truck is 10 years old and not fuel efficient and the old box truck is not legal for road use;

perhaps a deal can be made for two replacements. John Saviano has knowledge and experience in this field. Bill Estrella and Bill O'Dell appointed John Saviano as a subcommittee of one, to review the District's entire fleet and report back to administration and the Subcommittee on our best options. George Simmons will provide John with all the pertinent information.

Diana Campbell asked: Why were these items not on the Capital Projects list, what about the fields, and didn't we commit to computers on a rechargeable cart for Colt Andrews? Ed Mara said computers for the entire District have been covered. Also, the Committee decided not to spend \$15,000 for a field study when there is not enough funding to cover any upgrades. Jane Correia said capital projects were concentrated more on buildings. Bill Estrella commented that now that we have solid buildings we can count on for a little while, we should now look at our operating expense philosophy; we probably do need the new language lab. Bill O'Dell reiterated that he is not ready to commit to that size of an expenditure and he would like to know what we are losing out on and what we are getting by on, so he can make an educated decision. John Saviano said the State is now looking for return on investment; labs take planning and consideration. Bill Estrella asked for two to three weeks for the full Committee to discuss. In general the Committee would like more information; concerns were raised about possible extra money needed for the tech space move or Colt Andrews. George will arrange for either a demonstration from the vendor or some cut

sheets for a language lab. Bill O'Dell said the recommendation can be made to the full Committee by a Superintendent's Recommendation.

Facilities Update

Technology Space at Kickemuit

George reported the project is on schedule; only possible delay could be the windows, double-hung are needed. A savings will be realized in the following areas: flooring, scaled down sink and cabinet, and the sprinkler system (Fire Chief allowed smoke detectors rather than sprinklers in certain areas). The furniture will be some new and some old.

Mt. Hope

- Changes to the track are moving forward. Roger Williams is very interested in a collaborated effort with sports facilities, including upgrades.
- The Science Lab is moving forward.
- Port-a-potties were moved back where they were located.
- There is a problem with carpenter ants; George will investigate; sprays cannot be used with students present; even the use of green pesticides must be reported to the State.
- The newly paved parking area outside the kitchen has a drainage issue; George will investigate.

Bill Estrella said the Budget Subcommittee should commend

Administration and Maintenance for the job they have done with what they have to work with.

George Simmons left the meeting at 7:10 PM.

Budget – FY 2008 Continued

Jane said the State has mandated some changes in the reporting of revenue sources. Certain investment funds must be separated, and Medicaid must be part of the general fund. Jane was against this decision because it makes Medicaid look like a new revenue source. Jane is unsure of any carryover, but recommends putting it in capital projects.

MOTION: Bill Estrella motioned that the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee recommend to the full Committee that any carry-over in Medicaid funds be put into Capital Projects Funds. David Dugan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Colt Andrews Bonding

Jane reported that Jan Malik is on vacation and has handed the situation over to Doug Gablinske who will not have any news until Thursday.

Budget – FY 2009

Jane and Ed are scrutinizing District needs for next year. We are going down five elementary positions and a few at the Middle School due to student population. Health insurance came in at 7.1% instead of the 9% that was anticipated. The transportation bid opening is next week; a hefty increase is expected; options are being explored. We use the town's supply of fuel for maintenance vehicles; we will look at that for the busses.

Retirements: Two have been submitted; one more is expected; rumor is, people are waiting for the contract to be signed. Retirement incentives have not proven to be efficient.

Recalls: Still down 10 positions due mostly to decreases in population; students and programs should not be adversely affected. The Job Fair is May 29.

Roll Out of Budget: After discussion the Committee decided on changing the May and June meeting schedule to:

- May 12 – School Committee Workshop (as scheduled)—Agenda: Curriculum**
- May 14 – Budget Subcommittee (rescheduled from May 19) – detailed budget discussion and recommendation to full Committee**
- May 19 –School Committee Meeting (rescheduled from May 27); brief Budget discussion and Vote on Recalls**
- Cancel June 9 – School Committee Workshop**

- **June 23 – School Committee Meeting -- Final Budget Acceptance**

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 14, 2008 at 6:00 PM at Oliver.

Adjournment

At 7:48 PM David Dugan motioned to adjourn; Bill Estrella seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

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