

BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, December 1, 2008

Colt School Library

Present

**Subcommittee: William O'Dell (Chair), Paul Brule and Karen Lynch
School Committee, Administration and Staff: Denise Arsenault, John Bento, Diana Campbell, Marjorie McBride, John Saviano, Paul Silva, Edward Mara, Melinda Thies, Jane Correia and George Simmons**

Bill O'Dell called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Marjorie McBride motioned to approve the minutes to the October 20, 2008 meeting; Paul Brule seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Warrant Review

No questions or issues.

Bill O'Dell asked that his name and title be included at the bottom of all future Subcommittee agendas. He also asked that in the future, any desired changes to the agenda be brought to him for authorization.

Colt Andrews Bushes

Tracey McGee asked permission to remove the existing picker bushes and plant boxwood bushes along the perimeter of the Andrews lawn where it abuts the Bradford Street sidewalk in order to establish a visual barrier for the safety of the children as well as the passers by. Marjorie McBride asked Tracey for a simple diagram and description to take to the Historic District Commission and to Diane Williamson. As long as the height and spread of the bushes will be appropriate, the Committee had no objection to the plan.

Tracey McGee left the meeting at 5:42 PM.

Audit FY 2008

Jane Correia said the audit report must be accepted by the full

Committee at the December 15 meeting and be sent to the Auditor General by December 31. Jane said the report took longer to be prepared than previous years because of the UCOA; she anticipated a few findings but to the credit of her staff and especially Pauline Silva, there were none.

Reports Presented:

One page summary of the General Fund: shows a zero fund balance for 6/20/08 because of the cash flow reserve and emergency reserve requirements; from the \$51,320,714 FY 2009 approved budget, housing aid must be pulled out.

Audit Report: Jane pointed out that on page 16 debt service is required to be reported on its own. Any questions on the audit report should be directed to Jane ahead of time so she can forward them to the auditors who will be at the December 15th meeting.

Transfer Page: The \$252,257 balance in the general fund was transferred to Capital Projects per former School Committee action.

Budget FY 2010

Jane is predicting challenges in building the 2010 budget; the word out to finance administrators is funding from the State could be

reduced by up to 5%. She presented the timeline for the budget process. In response to Diana Campbell, Ed Mara said the Strategic Plan is currently being reviewed and will be completely updated by May. Also, his personal priorities for the use of the limited funding expected are reducing the dropout rate and increasing the graduation rate. Melinda Thies added that we need to review our math program; a math action team has been convened; also, data tells us we need to address science as well.

John Saviano shared information from the “Providence Business News”—the message from State Finance Administrators is to prepare for the worst in terms of revenue; the anticipated shortage is \$460M already. Marjorie McBride said we need to make sure regional districts are not overlooked again in the state planning process. Ed Mara said Representative Aiello’s bill is not dead yet and will resurface. Paul Silva added that if a supplemental budget is prepared part way through the year, we are locked into ours where other districts are not.

High School Fields

Ed Mara has received the soil test report from George Gifford; the master plan is expected within the next few weeks; this study cost \$18,000. The Committee discussed the feasibility of continuing with the fields project considering the ominous future of funding. It was decided to discuss the project further in January when the cost

information on the plan will be available.

Painting

Jane reported there was a balance in the elementary painting budget that was used for painting the exterior of the high school.

George Simmons informed the Committee that the front of Rockwell has lead paint that must be abated by a licensed professional, or covered with maintenance free siding, aluminum is preferred.

Third Party Administrator Services

Jane reported that Gatekeeper, the TPA company hired for District 403(b) management, has submitted a plan design and a resolution to adopt the plan, also a draft policy regarding funding vehicle(s) / vendor(s) selection and de-selection that must be adopted by the end of the year. The policy will have a first reading at the December 8th School Committee Meeting and a second reading on December 15th. The resolution will be presented for adoption on December 8th. Andrew Henneous will review them both before any action is taken.

GED and Adult Education

Melinda Thies presented an overview of our Adult Education/ GED Testing/ Continuing Adult Education Program as it existed in

2007-2008. Myra Webster has resigned as the coordinator. The Continuing Education program lost about \$6000 last year. Paul Silva suggested raising the fees. GED Testing and classes will be administered by RIRAL beginning in January. Discussion on the Continuing Education program will continue at the next Budget Subcommittee meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 20, 2008 at 6:00 PM, in the Oliver Administration Building.

Adjournment

At 6:48 PM, Karen Lynch motioned to adjourn; Paul Brule seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

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