

BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, August 25, 2008

Andrews School Conference Room

Present

Subcommittee: William O'Dell (Chair), Paul Brule (6:10), David Dugan, William Estrella and Marjorie McBride

School Committee, Administration and Staff: Diana Campbell, Karen Lynch, John Saviano (6:22), Paul Silva, Edward Mara, Jane Correia and George Simmons

Bill O'Dell called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Bill O'Dell motioned to approve the minutes to the July 21, 2008 meeting; David Dugan seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

FY 2008 Budget

Jane reported the 2008 Financial Statement to be very clean (attached). The \$273,155.23 balance will go down slightly; a \$200,000 balance was expected. Jane anticipates a difficult audit because of the many adjustments needed in order to comply with the many changes in regulations. Jane has reconciled our FTEs and will prepare a more detailed accounting of the budget for clarity.

Capital Projects Fund

Bill O'Dell had asked Jane for an accounting of where the various pieces of the fund balance lie.

The Balance of Funds Available June 30, 2008 is \$860,379. Adding the remaining balance in the general fund, the remaining balance in Medicaid and the FY 2009 allocation to capital projects, the funds available on July 1, 2008 total \$2,037,797. If necessary, funds can be moved from Capital Projects into the General Fund if unexpected SPED tuitions need to be funded. \$350,000 has been set aside for Colt Andrews if needed. The \$400,000 GHGRI rebate has been set aside to fund OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits); Jane would like to get the auditor's opinion on what to do with the \$400,000.

Approximately \$1M of the funds available is earmarked for items on the five-year plan. Bill O'Dell feels these projects should be finished before plans are made for the remainder of the money.

Marjorie McBride asked the record to state she wants "the fields

done.” Bill O’Dell believes that we have to start the thinking process now on what to do with the \$1M and not lose another season. Bill Estrella would feel more comfortable making these decisions with the architect of record, who can provide general cost estimates, so we have to bring back the RFP for the architect and engineer.

Bill Estrella said that life cycle costs are the basis of the five-year plan and pointed out that 1) we cannot borrow much more money, 2) renovations are done, and 3) we have a drying well. Jane explained that with new construction regulations, we had to submit our facilities assessment. Housing aid on the five-year plan has to be approved by the Board of Regents; ours was submitted and we have received back a check list of items needing more explanation.

Bill O’Dell would like to move forward with the search for a new architect of record. Expenditure decisions should be driven first by the five year plan which is generated by Administration then brought before the School Committee; in about two months, the balance available to work with will be more definite and he does not want to lose track of that money.

Marjorie McBride said she did not realize how critical the asset protection plan is and asked to re-review it.

Mt. Hope Athletic Fields

Bill O'Dell stated there is momentum building for upgrades to the athletic fields.

MOTION: Bill Estrella motioned that the Budget / Facilities Subcommittee put on record that the renovation of the athletic fields at Mt. Hope High School is a priority item in our capital funding plan. Marjorie McBride seconded.

John Saviano asked for a list of administration's priority items. Jane suggested the Committee review the five-year plan. Bill Estrella commented that the reason projects take so long is because the Committee steers administration in many different paths; Budget/Facilities is responsible for long term philosophy and the course for this field project needs to be set tonight. He feels it is a community disaster that our varsity teams do not have a proper place to play. Paul Silva said he has no objection to putting the athletic fields in plain view but before money is put to the project, we have to look at other areas as well, and the Town of Bristol has access to grant funding that we do not. Marjorie McBride would like the Committee and Diane Mederos to hear this from Walter Burke.

The orderly course of action is:

- Review the five-year plan**
- Obtain engineering in coordination with the architect of record**
- Explore grant funding**

Diana Campbell reported that the Quinta Gamelin Center has been

designated by the Town of Bristol as a recreational facility for the town. George Simmons confirmed that the Town is in the process of looking for grant money to restore the fields.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 15, 2008 at 6:00 PM at Oliver.

Adjournment

At 7:00 PM Marjorie McBride motioned to adjourn; Paul Brule seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

/ca