

BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, January 20, 2009

Oliver Administration Building

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Present

Subcommittee: William Oj'Dell (Chair), Paul Brule (6:10) and Karen Lynch

School Committee, Administration and Staff: Diana Campbell, Marjorie McBride, John Saviano, Edward Mara, Melinda Thies, Jane Correia, Paul Morris, Pauline Silva and George Simmons

Bill Oj'Dell called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM, upon reaching a quorum.

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Karen Lynch motioned to approve the minutes to the December 1, 2008 meeting; Bill Oj'Dell seconded; the motion passed by a vote of 2 to 0.

Warrant Review

No questions or issues.

Technology Review

Paul Morris reported that Steve May, the person who had performed the technology review of the District (at a cost of \$500), had met with Paul for several hours and made some suggestions; Steve was to have prepared a report, which has not yet been received. Paul will follow up with Steve; once the report is received, Marjorie McBride requested it be distributed to the entire School Committee.

MOTION: Karen Lynch motioned to continue this discussion to the February Budget Meeting. Bill O'Dell seconded; the motion passed by a vote of 2 to 0.

Paul Morris left the meeting at 6:07 PM.

Use of Facilities Changes

Because of the recent damage to our facilities by outside concerns using the gyms for outdoor sports, we now use event supervisors and the requirement of a security deposit is being considered.

Paul Brule joined the meeting at 6:10 PM.

Ed Mara reported that youth sports leagues are now maintaining

better control and are using indoor equipment; he mentioned that Barrington youth leagues do not use school facilities, they rent sporting facilities.

Comments:

„Í Karen Lynch -- forcing our local youth leagues to rent facilities is too costly and will prohibit participation by the children of our community; all youth sports leagues carry insurance.

„Í Marjorie McBride -- concerned not only for the children but for the tax-paying parents; everyone must be treated equally; agrees with a security deposit.

„Í Bill O'Dell ¿X is this issue not a function of administration?

„Í Paul Brule ¿X a \$500 security deposit is appropriate, leagues have to respect the property we just spent a great deal of money to upgrade; our facilities should be open to the towns.

Regarding the issue of empty liquor bottles being found on the premises, it is impossible to determine who is responsible. The Committee discussed a walk-through of the premises before and after each event. Karen Lynch suggested inviting the leaders of the youth sports groups to participate in these discussions. Marjorie McBride suggested requiring event supervisors for all functions, even practices, and for everyone. Paul Brule raised concern for a potential law suit if the evidence of liquor is found again.

Our existing policy requires liability insurance, adequate supervision, and restrictions on access to other parts of the building. Custodial fees are not charged if a custodian is already on duty.

MOTION: Paul Brule motioned that the Superintendent be instructed to enforce existing policies and practices for use of facilities and that an event supervisor be present at all events and practices. Bill OjilDell seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 2 to 1 with Karen Lynch opposed.

Colt Andrews

Bushes/ Playground

Marjorie McBride reported that the Principal had requested bushes be planted along the perimeter of the Andrews property on the west and south sides, in order to establish a visual barrier for both students and passers-by so the front lawn of the school can be used by students and teachers for such things as board games, outdoor reading, etc. Marjorie said HDC has no problem with this but asks for a picture. All agreed bushes should be planted and be paid for from Bond money.

ACTION: The Chair refers this request back to the Bond Project Building Committee.

Install Split AC System in Colt Library

Marjorie McBride said Galuska Engineering has proposed a separate

AC system for the Colt Library for a cost of \$40,000; the Building Committee recommended approval; Bond funds can cover the expense.

ACTION: This Committee approves and the Chair refers this request back to the Bond Project Building Committee.

Curtain Divider in Gymnasium/ Cafeteria

Jane Correia reported the curtain has been bid out and the bid opening is January 28. George

Simmons expects the cost to be approximately \$15,000.

ACTION: The bid to be referred to the Bond Project Building Committee.

Mt. Hope High School

Water Damage Update

George Simmons has sent all information to the insurance company; we are awaiting a response; he estimates the damage to be \$50 to \$60,000 and assumes it is covered. The flood was caused by an old pipe that broke then caused a freeze up of other pipes. John Saviano

informed the Committee of a new company coming to Warren, called AVTECH, that can install an inexpensive alerting system when the pressure in pipes drops; all felt this was worth exploring.

Sewer Injection Pump

Paul Brule said specs are needed; Roland Robert has the blue print and would not have to create an entire design.

ACTION: Roland Robert will be asked to draw up the specs.

Field Study Status

Ed Mara has received the soil test reports from George Gifford but no overall report yet. Bill O'Dell said this project dovetails into Joint Finance and this information is needed for the next meeting. Marjorie McBride reminded the Committee the District has a fields issue and we need to either spend the money to fix them or turn them over to the Towns.

ACTION: Ed Mara will contact George Gifford about the report.

Gas Lines

Authorization for the curb cut has not yet been given by the Town despite Ed and Jane's conversations with Diane Williamson. National Grid has a bad reputation for shoddy curb cuts. John Saviano has learned that the Town Administrators were not aware this is an emergency situation. Jane and Ed said they informed the Town this was a safety issue during a conference call. After discussion it was agreed that the Town should be offered the option to fix the curb themselves at our expense or the District will fix the curb ourselves to their liking and deduct the cost of the repair from the payment to National Grid.

ACTION: The options for the curb cuts will be presented to Fred Serbst and this discussion will be continued to the next meeting with reports.

Lighting Upgrades

Ed Mara reported on a meeting with RISE, who is performing an energy audit on all our buildings. RISE is very reputable and can replace existing lighting with energy efficient types at a reduced cost.

This audit is required for our Five Year Plan submission to the Board of Regents. Jane and Ed approved the upgrade for Oliver at a cost of \$2,211. Hugh Cole has been audited and the cost of upgrades is \$22,050.

MOTION: Karen Lynch motioned to approve the spending of up to \$22,050 for energy efficient lighting upgrades at Hugh Cole School and present this recommendation to the full Committee for a vote. Paul Brule seconded; the motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

George Simmons left the meeting at 7:15 PM.

Hire Planner ;X Enrollment Projections

Karen Lynch and Ed Mara are meeting tomorrow with representatives of NESDEC to discuss the comprehensive study. Jane Correia said this is also needed for the Five Year Plan.

MOTION: Karen Lynch motioned to recommend to the full Committee to spend up to \$21,000 to conduct a long range school facilities master plan. Paul Brule seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: The proposal will be distributed to the Committee in the next packet and Paul Silva will be asked to place this recommendation on the January 26th agenda for a vote.

Budget FY 2009

Layoffs

After careful consideration, Ed and Jane are recommending the lay off of all teachers with 10 years or less time (148); the vote will be taken at the February 9th Workshop.

Cuts

The State's funding for professional development is being cut (\$139,338); the permanent school fund from gambling is being suspended; 75% of teachers' retirement from February to June is being deferred, which is a wash for us because we are not being asked to pay it. Funds for GASBEE 45 had previously been reserved.

Jane reviewed the Capital Projects Fund. Spent as of December 31 is \$358,218.89, leaving \$1,737,881 available. Jane and Ed would like to

continue the painting program so the facilities remain looking good; the Committee agreed. Projected spending for the remainder of the year is \$532,261. If the funding reserved for Colt Andrews is not used, the funds available at the end of the year will be \$1,705,620.

Reynolds School

The Town has asked the District to retain possession of the Reynolds building until the end of

June. Much concern was raised about liability.

ACTION: Bill O'Dell will contact Paul Silva to apprise him of this situation and request the issue be placed on the January 26 agenda for discussion and action.

Budget FY 2010

Jane Correia presented some preliminary figures on next year's budget figuring three different scenarios of revenues. Most likely expected is level funding from the Towns and 5% cut from the State which would result in the District having to cut \$2,388,349. Cabinet is working on coming up with cuts totaling \$2M. The budget must be approved by the second meeting in February.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 6:00 PM at Oliver

Adjournment

At 7:59 PM Paul Brule motioned to adjourn; Karen Lynch seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

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