

BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Oliver Administration Building

Present

Subcommittee: William Ojeda (Chair), Paul Brule and Karen Lynch

**School Committee, Administration and Staff: John Bento (6:40),
Diana Campbell, Marjorie McBride, John Saviano, Edward Mara,
Melinda Thies, Jane Correia, Tracey McGee and George Simmons**

Guests: Charles Coelho, Cara Cromwell, Ian Parker and Nina Murphy

Bill Ojeda called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Karen Lynch motioned to approve the minutes to the April 6, 2009 meeting; Paul Brule seconded; the motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Warrant Review

No questions or issues.

Funding for Colt Andrews Playground

Members of the Colt Andrews Playground Committee attended the meeting at the request of Dr. Mara and the Budget Subcommittee. Cara Cromwell presented their plans for the proposed project which includes an outside classroom, playground equipment and a children's garden; their plan fixes the grading problem with the site and provides an attractive, safe place for play; however, there are still some handicapped accessibility issues and further adjustments must be made. As requested, the parents also provided budget estimates, totaling \$122,321. Ian Parker explained that the site area is quite large and requires considerable preparation which is costly; also costly is the railing for handicapped accessibility. Cara said any further contributions from the Committee would be appreciated and she asked about the possibility of using bond money for this project.

Discussion followed on the use of bond money, equality with the amount of funding appropriated to the Hugh Cole and Rockwell playgrounds, and the extent of District responsibility for preparation of the Colt Andrews site. Tracey McGee pointed out that Colt Andrews is like the outside living room of Bristol and upgrades to the property would benefit the community and taxpayers; also if a "per pupil cost" were considered, Colt Andrews, having 400 students

should be entitled to more than the schools with a lower enrollment. Marj McBride added that HDC had concerns about the type of railings, and the texture, pattern and color of the steps.

Without objection, Bill Ojeda directed the following action:

- 1) Ask Andrew Henneous to review the bond language to see if any funds are available,
- 2) Jane Correia to research and report the amount of money spent on landscaping the Hugh Cole and Rockwell projects to help determine District responsibility in terms of site grading and landscaping at Colt Andrews, and
- 3) Playgroup Committee to assess the level of ambitiousness of the project.

The discussion will continue at the next Budget Meeting in June.

Cara said the Playground Committee can rework the plan. They would like to start the project in June. Marj said if bond money is to be used, her Colt Andrews Construction Subcommittee would have to meet; project closeout is still pending. Bill Ojeda will speak with Bill Estrella and Paul Silva.

At 6:45 PM the parents left the meeting.

Jane Correia reported receiving a complaint about the awful condition of the landing at the front steps of Colt. If this poses a safety issue, it will have to be addressed; however, the school does not use that area at all.

Capital Projects / Budget Update

Jane Correia reported \$401,494.91 spent this year on capital projects to date and an estimated additional \$482,261 by the end of June; the estimated fund balance would then be \$1,212,344. An additional expenditure to be figured in is the engineering for the septic system. George Simmons said we applied for the first round stimulus money but were ineligible; we will apply for the second round on May 31 and the third round as well.

There is also \$500,000 reserved for Colt Andrews if needed.

MOTION: Paul Brule motioned to un-reserve the \$500,000 that was set aside for the Colt Andrews project; Karen Lynch seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Facilities Updates

Diana Campbell questioned the amount estimated for the science lab, it is considerably more than the amount needed to renovate the last two labs. George Simmons explained that three years ago, the first lab renovation cost \$94,000 and was designed as a "science lab", the second lab is a "biology lab" and this third lab is a "college prep lab"; this along with the increase in costs brings the estimate to \$165,855. Diana also reminded the Committee of their desire to upgrade the fields and press box. George Simmons will provide

another copy of the material on an after market, modular press box that attaches to the bleachers. Marj reminded the Committee that they voted to consider the fields and press box issues as one project.

Architectural Services

Four companies submitted bids for architectural services. Ed Mara said he, Jane and George recommend KSID; although the highest hourly rate, they came extremely highly recommended by Roger Williams University who has used them on several occasions; they do not add in additional costs, are very accessible and responsive and have considerable experience with schools and universities.

Comments:

„Í Karen Lynch;XMany of our buildings are historic and do not fit into the schools and universities category; there is something to be said for high recommendations.

„Í John Saviano;XAre all four companies qualified? Do we customarily choose the lowest bidder? Ed Mara responded that all four are qualified; and we do not always go with the lowest bidder, sometimes you get what you pay for. John has concerns with going for the highest bidder.

„Í Marjorie McBride;XIn the past we had problems with a firm out of Massachusetts; believes would should look in our own back yard first, KSID is not.

„Í Paul Brule;XHas worked with Mancino on many projects, all commercial; Mr. Mancino is like Roland Robert and had been

established for awhile; Paul worked well with him and had good luck with him.

„Í John Bento;XSuggested contacted three school related clients of Mancino;!'s for references.

Dr. Mara was open to the Committee;!'s comments and changed his recommendation to Mancino.

MOTION: Paul Brule motioned to support the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve Mancino as the District Architect for a period of one year, subject to the Superintendent;!'s check of references, and that this recommendation be placed on the next full Committee business meeting agenda. Karen Lynch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RISE Proposal

The net customer cost, with rebates, is \$2.8M; Jane said this was submitted for stimulus funds. Ed said this would be a huge savings for the District. John Saviano commented that the actual returns are better and faster than is reported on the RISE chart.

Other

Paul Brule was upset about the report of a leak in the high school roof; George explained that it is a circular puncture in the membrane, suspected seagull damage.

Karen Lynch asked about the leak in the Andrews School roof; George said it was looked at from the inside and will be further investigated on the roof in June when school gets out.

Karen also mentioned that Carol Anguilla asked if some of the issues stated in the NESDEC report that would take a quick fix will be addressed. Melinda Thies said we have already begun to address some of the storage issues.

Bids

Carpeting

The areas needing new carpeting are the high school library, the middle school library and the middle school band room. Administration feels the jobs should be grouped together and put out to bid. The east mall entrance to Kickemuit also needs attention but George feels the existing carpet, which was glued down but was not meant to be glued, can be ripped up and replaced with a "shaker" to remove sand, and a carpet, to dry. The problem with the KMS library carpet is the unraveling of the seams, which Bill O'Dell believes to be an installation problem; this should be highlighted when crafting the bids.

MOTION: Paul Brule motioned to go out to bid for carpeting for the high school library, the middle school library and the middle school band room. Karen Lynch seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Audit

Jane reported the RFP, which required approval from the Auditor General's office, has gone out; proposals are due by June 4. A partner in the firm that the Town of Bristol just hired is meeting with Jane because they would like to bid on the District as well. Although it is good to change auditors now and then, Jane has been very happy with Braver. The bid recommendation will go for a vote to the full Committee at the June business meeting.

Utilities

Jane reported by going out to bid for oil as an East Bay group we got an excellent price, \$2.04. Last year's oil cost \$3.40. The Town of Bristol was included in the group; the oil companies do not bid on Warren because of the size of their tanks so Warren could not be included. Ed mentioned that Jane was recognized by John Day because of her outreach to the Towns of Bristol and Warren. Jane said Dudek Oil was contacted but their prices were higher. The group is meeting with Direct Energy for gas; they will wait a bit longer for the prices to drop a little more.

George Simmons left the meeting at 7:40 PM.

Budget Updates

2009 FY Supplemental

Jane Correia reported revenue sources at \$53,916,592. State aid was cut by over \$1M but our employer contribution to the pension fund was also cut by over \$1M, making a wash; actual cuts to be made are estimated at \$139,338. Jane pointed out that stabilization funds should be used for things that we can do without in two years, such as professional development and training. John Saviano asked that additional District funding be provided to the MY TURN Program at Mt. Hope as some of their money has dried up.

FY 2010

Jane presented a projected budget that is predicated on level funding from the State. Administration has begun to look at additions necessary for next year as well as places to make cuts to balance the budget. The \$12M bond refinancing arranged by Sandy Mack netted a savings of \$670,308. Discussion will continue at the next Budget Subcommittee meeting, the last one before the full Committee must approve the budget.

Next Meeting

Monday, June 15, 2009, 6:00 PM at Oliver

Adjournment

At 8:24 PM, Paul Brule motioned to adjourn; Karen Lynch seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

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