

# **BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

## **MINUTES**

**Monday, June 15, 2009**

**Oliver Administration Building**

### **Present**

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

**Bill O'Dell called the meeting to order at 6:17 PM.**

### **Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION: Paul Brule motioned to approve the minutes to the May 19,  
2009 meeting; Karen Lynch seconded; the motion passed by a vote of  
3 to 0.**

### **FY 2009**

**Jane Correia reported we are finishing with a balance a little higher  
than expected because of using lower priced gas over oil for heating;  
close out procedures have just begun; the Committee will decide**

**what to do with the balance.**

## **FY 2010**

**Jane said we still do not have a budget from the State, she will have a budget to present on June 22 based on level funding. Plans are to recall 22 more teachers (mostly middle and high school), leaving 34 plus 3 retirees (mostly elementary), on layoff. Ed Mara added that if the budget does not come through level funded, the next cuts would be in literacy. Jane said \$1.4M in cuts have been made; BWEA job fair is next Tuesday; Council 94 job fair has not been scheduled.**

## **Revised 5-Year Asset Protection Plan**

**George and Jane explained that year 2 uses stimulus funds and the reason for \$510,000 in expenditures for Colt Andrews in year 4 is the requirement for lead and chips certification which was not present during renovation designing. Stimulus funds cannot be used for air conditioning; it can be used for energy cost savings measures. Jane said the Towns of Bristol and Warren are interested in partnering with the District on the use of the stimulus funds. Ed reported he and George, at the request of Jan Malik, met with New England Green Energy, who design and install new energy systems; Ed had Andrew review the MOU; this is another avenue for potential cost savings. George has spent countless hours going over the use of the stimulus money.**

## **Capital Projects**

**Jane Correia reported \$435,810.52 spent to date on capital projects this year. Marj McBride reminded the Subcommittee that the full Committee wanted \$1.2M to address the drainage problems at the Mt. Hope fields. The press box was previously rolled into the field project. Jane said money from gait receipts and from the Booster Club was to be used for the press box. George said George Gifford's design utilizes an aftermarket press box that bolts on to the bleachers for \$85,000, the extra \$15,000 is the designing of a ramp; the bathrooms and storage would be a separate structure way to the right of the press box with sewer connection to Naomi Street. Diana Campbell mentioned that the Town of Bristol has been given the OK to use the Quinta Gamelin Center for recreation; the Rec Board received a \$1M grant which will be used in the Town Beach/ Colt Park area.**

**John Saviano stated for the record that it is very disconcerting to him that, in these economic times, this Committee is considering the possibility of spending \$2M on fields when there is such need in the schools.**

**George Simmons left the meeting.**

## **Stipends**

**Jane Correia reported that she and Beth Penkala reviewed the coaches' stipends and although they have been given an increase, they are still comparatively low. Bob Arsenault has requested an increase in the Performing Arts stipends, \$9,700 total net changes. Bill O'Dell was uncomfortable discussing stipends for just one department. Ed said the Performing Arts people are in effect coaches and work hard and some deserve an increase. The money taken in at events is accounted for and audited unless the event is organized by the parent groups; marching band director does not receive extra for parade performances, the money received goes to the band boosters. John Bento felt the administrators should review all stipends.**

**MOTION: Paul Brule motioned to table this discussion and action to the fall, pending a recommendation from Administration on ALL stipends. Karen Lynch seconded; the motion passed unanimously.**

**Karen Lynch asked if Ed would anticipate an issue if this request was not approved tonight (such as refusal to march in 4th of July parade); Ed said we have a new marching band director --- Chris Lambert.**

## **Budget Cuts**

**Jane presented an update in proposed cuts. It does not seem as though an extra K teacher will be needed. Four PD days were eliminated but funding for one day for digital portfolio will have to be**

found. Marj is in favor of two PD days. Karen Lynch and Marj McBride were adamant about providing a full time librarian at all schools; administration will have to work it out. Paul Brule said a budget must be passed tonight and it can be fine tuned later.

**MOTION:** Paul Brule motioned to approve the budget as presented. After discussion about leaving flexibility in staffing cuts, Paul amended his motion.

**MOTION:** Paul Brule motioned to approve the budget to include reductions in staffing amounting to \$736,593. Karen Lynch seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

### **Audit Bid**

Jane explained the Auditor General is required to approve the bid specs as well as the recommended firm. Five responses were received. Jane discounted Beaulieu because they are from Maine; also Lefkowitz because additional fees for certain services were not clearly stated in their proposal (bordering on deceitful). Jane prefers Braver over Bacon because when Jane started at Bristol Warren, Bacon was the auditor and, although she likes the people very much, she was told at the time that the District was in great financial shape and they supported the upgrade of our bond rating, when in fact the District was financially bad off. Braver is well respected and they have served us well for seven years. Bill asked if we need to switch auditors after so many years; Jane said no.

**MOTION:** Paul Brule motioned to recommend to the full Committee to

**award the bid for auditing services to Braver PC. Karen Lynch seconded; the motion passed unanimously.**

### **AFLAC Contract**

**Jane explained the Cafeteria Plan Administrator monitors supplemental benefits; the IRS will not offer the pre-tax option if we do not have a Plan Administrator. Andrew has reviewed the documents.**

**MOTION: Paul Brule motioned to recommend to the full Committee the appointment of AFLAC as the District's Cafeteria Plan Administrator. Karen Lynch seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.**

### **Next Meeting**

**Monday, July 20, 2009, 6:00 PM at Oliver**

### **Adjournment**

**At 7:30 PM, Paul Brule motioned to adjourn; Karen Lynch seconded; the motion passed unanimously.**

**/ca**