

BUDGET / FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, May 17, 2010

Oliver Administration Building

Present

Subcommittee: William O'Dell (Chair), Paul Brule and Karen Lynch

School Committee, Administration and Staff: Denise Arsenault (6:40), John Bento, John Saviano, Melinda Thies, Mario Andrade, Pauline Silva, Mary Almeida (6:40) and George Simmons

Guests: Kristen Quinn and Tara Thibaudeau

Bill O'Dell called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Paul Brule motioned to approve the minutes to the April 19, April 26 and May 10, 2010 meetings; Karen Lynch seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Budget Update – FY 2011

After a review of versions A and B of proposed cuts that were

presented at the last meeting, Pauline Silva presented version C. Melinda Thies reported there was a meeting with the BWEA to discuss the re-design of high school quasi-administration and that of the middle school. Middle School grade team leaders are a contract item and high school department heads are an agreement (MOA) item. Without a concession from the union on GTLs, three electives may have to be eliminated. Regarding the PD days, Andrew and John Leidecker are developing an MOA.

Kindergarten TAs were restored because of the high number of registrations; there is an overage of K students for Guiteras so a pre-K teacher was eliminated and a K teacher added; Colt Andrews, a three track school, has only two tracks of Ks thus far, however last year there were 15 registrations over the summer.

Karen Lynch was disheartened to see middle school sports as a possible cut.

Paul Brule feels it is unfair to totally eliminated middle school sports, and instead, would eliminate a little from the high school and a little from the middle school to make it equitable; the energy savings is estimated a little high; the teaching staff decisions are for the Superintendent to make.

Melinda commented that a number of middle schools across the state are eliminating sports so the opportunities for interscholastic

competition will be diminished. Denise Arsenault said she is a proponent of promoting physical activity at a young age, however, she wants to be sure our investments touch the most kids possible.

Bill O'Dell feels a \$30 - 40,000 hit to capital projects is reasonable to save middle school sports; it will help preserve the feeder concept. Karen agrees; elimination of the competitive piece at the middle level carries over to the high school level.

Tara Thibaudeau stated the small amount of money to sustain middle school sports is well worth it; sports provides a strong incentive for her children to maintain good grades; such programs help promote health consciousness and provide a good family atmosphere to many young teenagers who already have issues; our high school sports programs are becoming excellent; perhaps sharing transportation costs with neighboring communities or allowing parents to car pool could help defray expenses.

John Bento supports the funding of middle school sports and suggested a small task force be appointed to study the cost effectiveness of such programs.

John Saviano also supports middle school sports and predicts even more "leaning" to come; Bristol Warren is fortunate to have been able to save money in the past.

Regarding middle school grade team leaders, Melinda explained the proposal is to move them to a full-time teaching schedule; right now they are underutilized; however, this would require opening the contract and there are no guarantees the union will agree to this; a series of negotiations are underway; there is a re-opener clause in the contract; as a back up, she would recommend the elimination of some electives.

Paul Brule left the meeting at 7:15 PM to attend the Warren financial town meeting.

To demonstrate the impact that programs have on families, Kristen Quinn shared something another parent had commented to her—the parent had heard that middle school Spanish might be cut, if so, he will send his daughter to a private school.

Bill O'Dell said the Committee would much rather see quasi-administrators eliminated instead of courses for students or middle school sports. He believes it is the desire of the Committee to use \$20,000 of the funds earmarked for the capital projects funds to maintain middle school sports and collect the remaining \$20,000 from other line items. A balanced budget must be set before the end of June; there will be one final Subcommittee meeting in June to approve the final budget and forward it to the full Committee for a vote on June 28.

Tara Thibaudeau asked if middle school sports could be at risk if the enrollment numbers climb to the point of requiring additional teachers. Melinda said there will be less and less latitude with the budget. John Saviano added that the District has done a remarkable job with the funding we have had; we do not have the ability to go to the public for money, it must be to Joint Finance; with the increasing number of students, we must deal with the budget like we do at home.

Guiteras Heating System

George reported two bids were received—C & D Construction for \$153,000 and Automatic Temp Control for \$125,000; he recommends the low bidder.

MOTION: Paul Brule motioned to recommend to the full Committee the bid be awarded to Automatic Temp Control in the amount of \$125,000. Karen Lynch seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Transportation

Pauline discovered the District has been charged two different fees for field trip transportation -- \$72.80 per hour with no mileage for field trips, and \$21 per hour plus \$2.60/mile for curriculum related and sporting events. All Bristol Warren trips and events are curriculum or sports related. Pauline has asked for a \$12,000. Parent groups

should get the same rates. Bill O'Dell suggested a memo be sent to all concerned to let them know what the rates should be.

John Bento left the meeting at 7:40 PM.

Colt Site Work

George reported the walkway was poured today and the forms for the stairs installed. He will reinstall a rolling gate and plant a smaller tree than was planned for to provide access for equipment. Bases for the playground equipment will be installed on June 12; the mulch surface must be Fibar because it is an ADA playground.

George raised concern about the lack of HDC approval of the poured steps and recalled a School Committee member saying HDC does not have to be informed. The stairs are currently designed to have a rounded edge for comfortable seating, but if Versalock caps are going to be required by HDC, a cornered edge is necessary. The project is \$30,000 below the original estimate, so there is some flexibility with product purchases. George is very much opposed to stamped concrete for the ground; HDC does not approve either.

Because of the uncertainty of HDC involvement and the potential for very costly removal of unapproved structures, the Subcommittee agreed to minimize losses and cancel the pour, pay the approximately \$2000 we would be obligated to pay for preparation work already

completed, and George will contact Sue Church of HDC. After this meeting, Bill O'Dell will contact Paul Silva and then George.

Capital Projects Fund Review

Pauline reported no change for FY 10. For FY 11, \$14,000 was paid to Maguire, a state housing aid payment was received and payment made to the Town of Bristol. Regarding the \$15,000 for Colt Andrews outdoor equipment, Tara Thibaudeau asked if Hugh Cole received the same; Pauline will look into this.

Mt. Hope Athletic Fields

The fields project is at a stand still; George asked Ted Spinard about the permitting item in the contract and Ted said it was for the markings on the field, not the fee to apply.

MOTION: Karen Lynch motioned to approve the payment of the \$1200 DEM permitting fee; Bill O'Dell seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 2 to 0.

George informed the Subcommittee that DEM approval is valid for three years, with possible extension for two more years.

Adjournment

MOTION: At 8:20 PM Karen Lynch motioned to adjourn. Bill O'Dell

seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

/ca