

# **BUDGET / FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

## **MINUTES**

**Monday, June 21, 2010**

**Mt. Hope High School Cafeteria**

### **Present**

**Subcommittee: William O'Dell (Chair), Paul Brule and Karen Lynch  
School Committee, Administration and Staff: Denise Arsenault (6:50),  
Diana Campbell, John Saviano, Paul Silva, Melinda Thies, Mario  
Andrade, Pauline Silva and George Simmons**

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

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

**All present were invited to pledge allegiance to the flag.**

### **Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION: Paul Brule motioned to approve the minutes to the May 17  
and May 24, 2010 meetings. Karen Lynch seconded. The motion  
passed by a vote of 3 to 0.**

### **Public Comment**

**James Santos, President of Council 94, expressed concern about the**

cuts and layoffs for Council 94 members; other than the retirement of one custodian and one secretary, they are unaware of Administration's plans and the people he represents are worried. He suggested that as people retire, they not be replaced; the District needs their support staff. Paul Brule explained that for the next nine years, the budget will be cut \$1M per year while costs increase; we have to go year by year and position by position; tax payers are not going to be able to afford \$3 - \$4 more on the tax rate just for the schools. George Simmons provides custodial staff information to Melinda Thies, who then guides the Committee. The Committee does not take this lightly.

Donna Cruz, Vice-President of Council 94, urged the Committee to cut Council 94 as little as possible. Jim Santos added that over the next ten years, 20-25 people will be retiring.

Bill O'Dell said the budget recommendation will be on the June 28 School Committee Meeting agenda. Melinda Thies added that when making cuts, attempts are made not to cut a single area too deeply; she believes the cuts should affect adults before they affect the children. Ten positions have been eliminated from BWEA and there have been nine retirements to offset these reductions; there have not been many retirements within Council 94. Denise Salamon commented the need for support staff is greater than in the past because there are many more children now with issues such as OCD, autism and ADHD.

**Pauline Silva reviewed the attached list of proposed cuts.**

**In response to questions from the Committee and the public, Melinda explained:**

- The 9 Council 94 positions are full-time.**
- The elimination of the PD days and redesign of secondary administrative staff are garnered in an MOA.**
- The redesign of the SPED program was achieved by bringing some high-end special needs autistic children back into District, incorporated into the school environment with a superior educational program; Leslie Anderson has met with these families.**
- After the budget is approved, some of the laid-off teachers will be recalled.**
- ARRA funds offset some of the cuts being considered earlier.**
- Elementary class sizes may increase; there is not a great deal of data to support limited teacher to student ratios beyond grades K, 1 and 2; any increase in class size is due to increased enrollment.**
- Kindergarten TAs have been restored.**
- There are no literacy coaches remaining in the District; teacher coaches are shared between the middle and high school levels; literacy at the elementary level will remain the same.**
- Secretarial staff at the high school (8) is being streamlined.**

**Denise Arsenault has received comments from a number of people that administration at the high school is top-heavy in the area of discipline; Melinda assured her that area was reviewed.**

**MOTION:** Paul Brule motioned to forward the budget as presented to the full Committee. Karen Lynch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **FY 2010 Budget**

Pauline reported the cash reduction of \$562,934 in the Governor's Supplemental Budget was met because we planned for it. The "Town of Bristol Loan" is a payback of \$2M for Colt Andrews over the next 20 years out of housing aid.

### **Capital Projects Fund**

Pauline reviewed the attached report.

**Master Plan for Mt. Hope Field Design -- we are still holding \$18,000 of the \$61,322.46.**

**Air conditioning for computer labs – Denise would like it to be considered to increase longevity of equipment; George takes his guidance from Paul Morris; Bill O'Dell asked the Superintendent to get information from Paul Morris about computer repairs and replacement due to heat issues.**

**Asset Protection Plan – there isn't enough funding to cover this; Karen cautioned against letting our buildings fall apart after coming**

so far; the Committee must address the items for the MVQ pavilion at Hugh Cole; the year 2 items will be addressed by priority with the balance of the capital projects funds.

Mt. Hope windows project -- all the lower level windows are being eliminated; George suggested purchasing Diamond windows instead of Winco because they are a little cheaper with the same R value (insulation value) and the same E value (tint). The architect inadvertently left 13 windows out of the plan which comes to approximately \$30,000; after negotiation, the savings with the change on the window brand is approximately \$30,000. Triple glazing was not considered in order to remain consistent with existing windows and the R value is not a high priority in windows; George has confidence in the Diamond windows; being a local company, they can be delivered quicker but completion of the project will still be close. The choral room is included in the project and the bottom row of windows will open, from the top (unlike the Kickemuit windows which were manufactured upside down).

There are concerns with the performance of the architect; Andrew Henneous is being consulted about making a claim for the cost of the windows plan and the indirect costs to the District for having to provide man-hours to keep the project within our budget. Denise commended George for his hard work on the project as well as the Subcommittee and the Superintendent for their supervision.

## **Colt Site Work**

**George reported a few changes which involved making an entrance to the parking area, relocation of a tree and the dumpster to make it accessible; a curb cut will be made, creating three handicapped parking spaces. There will be privet shrubs around the dumpster. Because of the level of savings from the original proposal, George suggested \$3 - 4,000 of the bond fund be used to install the fence instead of using District funds as was planned. Bill O'Dell said the Building Committee put the \$8,900 bond fund balance under the direction of the Budget Subcommittee.**

**MOTION: Karen Lynch motioned to charge the asphalt, fence and curb cut to the bond fund balance at a cost not to exceed the balance amount. Paul Brule seconded.**

**MOTION: Karen Lynch amended her motion to include striping for the parking lot. Paul Brule seconded. The motion to amend passed by a vote of 3 to 0.**

**The motion to approve, as amended, passed by a vote of 3 to 0.**

**Karen would like to assure that all commitments concerning the bond project are totally fulfilled. George said that at the direction of Bill Estrella, A.F. Lusi has not been closed out because not all punch list items have been completed.**

## **Architectural Services**

**The Committee reviewed the list of bids submitted. LEED certification is a new requirement on projects to be approved for housing aid.**

**MOTION: Karen Lynch motioned to recommend awarding the bid to the second lowest bidder, Torrado Architect. Bill O'Dell seconded. Paul Brule recalled a number of problems with Torrado on past projects. Karen withdrew her motion.**

**Although some Committee members were familiar with some of the architects, the LEED certification status of some was unclear. Because the need for an architect is not urgent, it was decided the Subcommittee would review in detail the application packets of the two lowest bidders (\$125 per hour) who were not rejected, and bring their recommendation for a vote at the next Subcommittee meeting in July.**

## **Adjournment**

**MOTION: At 7:54 PM Paul Brule motioned to adjourn. Karen Lynch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**/ca**