

# **BUDGET / FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

## **MINUTES**

**Monday, March 21, 2011**

**Oliver Administration Building**

### **Present**

**Subcommittee: William O'Dell (Chair), John Bento (6:41) and Diana Campbell**

**School Committee, Administration and Staff: Marjorie McBride, Susan Rancourt, John Saviano, Paul Silva, Melinda Thies, Mario Andrade, Pauline Silva and George Simmons**

**Guests: Ed Frenette and Keelia Kentor of SMMA**

**Bill O'Dell called the meeting to order at 6:47 PM.**

### **Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION: Diana Campbell motioned to approve the minutes to the March 14, 2011 meeting; Bill O'Dell seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 2 to 0.**

### **Joint Finance Committee Meeting Discussion**

**Melinda feels the District should have a strategy for the March 29 Joint Finance Meeting anticipating more aggressive questioning; there have been many email requests from parents for information, also from Richard Paduch. Regarding the question posed by David Barboza if we feel the towns have been funding education properly, the slide showing the history of budget requests and allocations tells it; we have been able to maintain the District because of the level of State funding, but that will no longer be there and the gap is going to get larger and larger. Diana believes the Towns feel 50% of their overall budget for education is plenty; we should get the data from our neighboring towns; we have been able to get by but on the backs of our teachers. Bill feels showing the request/allocation slide will put Joint Finance on the defensive. Paul Silva pointed out the Towns have the choice to seek a waiver and increase taxes rather than cut services to the public to fund education. Marj McBride favors hard numbers.**

**Melinda feels we do not need to be so transparent to provide individual salaries to Richard Paduch's when we have demonstrated FTEs. John Saviano believes the Town Council is listening to the Town Manager more than ever and we should give him as much information as we can. Melinda said we will respond; UCoA will provide limitless data which will be public on March 25. Paul Silva believes Mr. Paduch has requested enough information to find a hole in it and identify a weak point. Melinda agrees we should not alienate the Councils and supports Paul's comment, but there is no**

**transparency on their end. Bill suggested reaching out to each JF member individually before the meeting.**

**Mario Andrade left the meeting at 6:40 PM to attend the Choral Concert.**

**John Bento joined the meeting at 6:41 PM.**

**Bill cautioned that not providing all information requested could give the impression we are hiding something. Susan Rancourt feels Richard is trying to disseminate good information. Through past experience Marj believes we will be asked why we need this position, or that position. Melinda said the release of UCoA information on March 25th will reveal all such data.**

**David Barboza will prohibit people who spoke at the last meeting from speaking again, so Diana will speak. Melinda would like to publicly respond to the lingering questions. The tax payers need to speak up and adult voices heard. Diana said the audience is waiting for a comment they can loudly cheer about. Bill said we should avoid the comparison to “a cup of coffee a day;” the chart showing each town’s contribution to education is powerful. Melinda reiterated there are other ways to do this without increasing taxes.**

**Plan:**

**Pauline will provide whatever data the School Committee could want.**

**Susan, John Bento and John Saviano will meet with Cathy Tattrie and**

**David Frerichs.**

**John Bento said Warren is the lynch pin/ focal point; they do not want to change enabling legislation or go through another financial town meeting.**

**Melinda and Pauline will talk to Richard Paduch.**

**Susan will contact Scott Lial.**

**John Saviano will speak with Davison Bolster and Chris Stanley.**

**Melinda will talk to David Barboza.**

**Bill will talk to Halsey Herreshoff.**

**Diana will call Mary Parella and Tony Teixeira.**

**Paul will speak with Ken Marshall.**

**Paul Silva left the meeting at 6:55 PM.**

**Presentation – SMMA Architects – 5 Year Asset Protection Plan**

**Mr. Edward Frenette, Senior Vice-President of SMMA, said the firm is very familiar with the new RIDE regulations and the process, being the first architectural firm to go through it; they also represent East Providence, East Greenwich and North Kingstown.**

**Project Description**

- Facilities Assessment for Mt Hope HS**
  - Architectural Feasibility Study**
  - Design and Educational Program**
  - Itemization of Spaces**

**– Cost Estimate of HS repair work, technology upgrades, recreational fields repair**

- **Documentation of High Performance Green Standards**
- **Energy Benchmarking Analysis**
- **Financing Plan**
- **Project Timeline**

## **History**

- **Maguire Group Site Study (2008)**
- **Mount Vernon Group Elementary Schools Facilities Study (2002)**

**These studies were performed before the new RIDE regulations were established.**

## **Project Status**

**RIDE Stage I submitted**

**Facility walk-through assessment**

**Administrative interviews**

**Capacity Analysis**

**Cost Estimate**

**Project Definition**

**Project Timeline**

**Committee approvals**

**RIDE Stage II submitted**

**NESDEC**

## **Capacity Analysis**

### **Totals**

**Net Educational SF 87,827**

**Gross SF 184,000**

**Total Enrollment FY2010 1,106**

**Total Capacity 2,022**

**85% Utilization 1,719**

**Capacity Difference -613**

**Capacity Based on RIDE SF/Student 1,320**

**Projected Enrollment for 2015-2016 1,088**

**Mt. Hope High School has the capacity for 1300 students; for the size of the school we have sizable gym space and auditorium, which skews the numbers. The educational square footage is on the small side, 11,000 sf short of the RIDE recommendation. The inhabitants of the high school seem comfortable with the size.**

## **Facilities Assessment**

- Roundtable meeting with Facilities Staff**
  - Identify known issues**
  - Rate building systems on a scale of 1-10**
- Engineers/architect perform walk-throughs of building(s)**
  - Visual assessment of existing conditions**
- Write-up of existing conditions and recommendations sent to estimator**

- **Cost Estimate**
- **Review of estimate by engineers/facilities staff**

## **Walk-through Photos**

## **Cost Estimate**

### **Four project categories:**

- **Mt Hope HS Repair & Renovations (SMMA)**
- **High School Cabling (Voice Systems, Inc)**
- **Mt Hope Recreational Field Improvements (Maguire Group)**
- **Asset Protection/Repairs at Elementary and Middle Schools (BW Facilities Staff)**

### **Project Type:**

- **Capital Upgrades – Upgrades to facilities**
- **Asset Protection – Preserves current state**
- **Code/ADA Compliance – To meet regulations; high rate of**



- **Long term collaboration plans with math, robotics**
- **Could warrant further study in the future**

**The locations of the STEM classrooms are distant; consideration should be given to closer proximity to each other.**

### **Long Term Issues – PARCC Testing**

- **Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness in College and Careers**
- **Goal: To dramatically increase the number of students graduating from high school college-and career-ready by creating a next generation assessment**
- **The first PARCC assessment will be administered in Rhode Island during the 2014-2015 school year.**
- **Significant technology requirements**

**Pauline said she and George attempted to identify doable projects to lay the ground work for the five-year asset protection plan; the next step is to prioritize the projects and prove the ability to fund 50%.**

**Regarding the field work, Ed mentioned prices took a nose dive in 2007 as much as 30%; if the economy continues to improve, at some point they will get back up.**

**Marj commented the classrooms in the high school are woefully small and administration needs to address this. Keelia said RIDE recommends 950 sf, most are 700 sf—but enrollment in most classes is 18 to 20 students. Marj remembers the Committee had in the past talked about a bond for the boiler and air conditioning.**

**Projects for submission to RIDE must be decided (projects we are willing to fund and seek reimbursement for). RIDE prefers code compliant and energy efficiency projects. Capital upgrades must be justified with more than a definition. Additional points are given if 75% of the plan is for energy efficient and/or code compliant projects.**

**John Saviano refuted the NESDEC predictions saying 47% of the single family homes in Bristol Warren are owned by seniors who will most likely sell to young families once the economy improves; the East Bay offers a quality of life that is attractive to families. Diana mentioned there are not enough jobs in the area to support new families. Ed said they are finding relatively flat enrollment rates across New England; it is based on live births. Marj added that seven new children have moved on to her street in the last few years.**

**Keelia and Ed stated that regardless of how the Committee feels about the validity of the NESDEC projections, this is what RIDE requires; the submission to RIDE is due at the beginning of April. RIDE defines projects by the amount of money spent at each facility;**

**the amount designated for a building can be changed from line to line but the designated amount must be spent on that building; any changes a few years from now would have to be substantiated and approved by RIDE. A cushion above the numbers is recommended (“not to exceed”), giving us five years to spend the money or up to it. During this time we could spend more, but it would not be reimbursed by RIDE.**

**MOTION: Diana Campbell moved to accept the plan as presented and forward the recommendation to the full Committee for approval. John Bento seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.**

**At 8:00 PM Ed Frenette and Keelia Kentor left the meeting.**

**Budget -- Pauline has not budgeted anything into capital projects for quite a few years because budget overages are transferred into capital projects and the housing aid not used on debt service goes toward capital projects.**

**In planning for boilers and air conditioning we should be mindful that our schools are more and more becoming 12-month schools.**

**The potential overcrowding in the elementary schools remains a concern; if a major change in the plan is necessary in a few years we will have to demonstrate the need for a change.**

## **Adjournment**

**MOTION: At 8:15 PM Diana Campbell motioned to adjourn. John Bento seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**/ca**