

BUDGET / FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mt. Hope High School

Present

Subcommittee: Susan Rancourt, Chair, John Bento, Marjorie McBride and Paul Silva (6:15 pm)

School Committee, Administration and Staff: Diana Campbell (6:40 pm), Bill O'Dell, John Saviano, Mario Andrade, Pauline Silva, and George Simmons

Absent: Melinda Thies

Susan Rancourt, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Marj M. made a motion to approve the minutes for the January 23, 2013 meeting; John Bento seconded.

Discussion: Susan Rancourt would like to make an amendment to

the minutes under heading Budget Process – FY2014 within the last sentence to read “with a 0.56% reduction in our request”.

Motion: Marj M. motioned to amend the January 23, 2013 minutes under heading Budget Process – FY2014 within the last sentence to read “with a 0.56% reduction in our request”; John Bento seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve minutes passed unanimously.

Facilities Focus

Update – MHHS Project

George S. reported that they are going out to bid for the first phase of the asbestos abatement. He would like to get as much done as possible during April vacation so that the second phase which is bigger will be complete before school starts in September. He stated that a few things will have to be adjusted to keep within the prior budgeted amount.

Update – Security Project

George S. reported that materials are installed. In an effort to cut costs, they are in the process of making picture ID cards themselves. Hugh Cole is just about finished. There will be five to six substitute badges created. George S. and Pauline reminded everyone that we

have good protocols in place now for the school day as well as after school activities. Currently, School Dude is always updated and is a good resource for controlling activities, ie. number of attendees, need for event coordinator, etc. There is also a new RI law requiring any event or gathering of 50 or more people to have a certified event specialist. All principals and custodians have been certified. John B. would like to see more people on duty as event coordinators. Pauline S. stated this would be costly. She will look into the responsibilities of our current Event Coordinators and report back.

John B. would like to see a police presence at after school events. George S. responded that currently, Bristol police requires a minimum of four hours; Warren has no minimum. George S. stated that Officer McNally of the Bristol Police recently attended a seminar on security measures and that they are willing to do a walk-thru of our schools. After that, George would like to contact the Warren Fire Chief as well. Also, during Bristol Warren Regional's next Professional Day, local police will be coming in to train and work with clerical staff in security measures. John B. believes we should come up with line items of security measures for our budget. By doing so, he feels the police may look at that for ways that they can help us. George S. said that Bristol and Warren police and fire are always happy to help us.

George S. stated that one of the security plans was shown to the Fire Chief for the Town of Warren. He would like to change the plans to include two doors. Susan R. suggested having a discussion with

KMS's PTO to obtain feedback from them about the new plans. Marj M. would like to see pictures before going out to bid.

Pauline S. reported back that she spoke with Joseph DaSilva about the availability of Housing Aid with \$25,000 left over in our Hugh Cole budget and \$30,000 allocated for security doors at Kickemuit Middle School. If we were to adjust these line items, it would just be an amendment to RIDE and there would be no problem doing this. We would then have \$55,000 available to put toward the new security physical plans.

(George Simmons left at 6:45 pm)

(John Saviano left at 6:45 pm)

Budget Focus

FY14 Budget Request

Pauline S. reminded everyone that the FY14 budget is still very preliminary. Pauline S. highlighted that there was a 4.17% reduction in State Aid with a decrease of \$741,050. Warren was reduced by 3.98% with a decrease of \$483,641. Total reduction in our budget is 0.56%. Our base is lower by \$615,012 due to settlement of CBA's. Pauline S. gave an explanation for the human capital changes. She reiterated that this is part of a five year plan in rebuilding smartly for the best student outcomes. Some suggestions were made to make the Revenue Projections more streamlined for presentation to the

Joint Finance Committee. All agreed it would be good to break down the enrollments used for allocation to towns by elementary, middle school and high school. Another suggestion was to have the funding formula in bold print.

Susan R. closed by saying they will continue the budget discussion with Melinda, and Pauline S. stated this remains a fluid situation until the final numbers come in. A special meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 21st to be open to all town officials to allow an open forum and discussion.

KMS Advisor Stipends

Pauline S. reported that Kickemuit Middle School put in a request for stipends for after school clubs so that they would be in line with the high school. Currently, those individuals that head up clubs at the high school are paid whereas those at the middle school volunteer. KMS is looking to add this for the second semester 2013. The individual stipend amounts average between \$500 and \$1000 for a total of \$9200. Pauline S. stated that this would be prospectively (not going back to pay anyone for the first semester) and for future years as well and would have to be approved as part of the FY2014 budget. Beth Hayes believes the individuals at the middle school would fulfill the time commitment required for a stipend. Some concerns raised by the subcommittee members were whether the clubs listed were throughout the school year and/or would meet often enough to

warrant a stipend; should we be paying stipends when the activity is not a requirement of the curriculum. Pauline S. will speak with Beth about individual time commitments for each club, specifically, Student Government and Journalism, as well as the other clubs listed asking where they meet and are they operating currently. She will also ask Beth if there are other clubs that she would like to see added which are not shown currently. Susan R. mentioned the timeliness of voting on this to protect against liability concerning the hiring of the athletic coaching staff next month. (As soon as a vote is made, these athletic staff positions will be placed on School Spring.) Marj M. asked about the stipend increase for R. Garrity that was discussed in the fall. Pauline will review her notes and look into the minutes concerning that and report back. Diana C. believes that afterschool clubs are an important resource for the kids and that stipends will help encourage clubs to continue. Because of the timeliness regarding athletic assistant coaching staff, it was determined to make a vote on those positions, but to wait and vote on the rest when Pauline S. reports back.

MOTION: Paul S. motioned to approve stipends for baseball, softball and track assistant coaches equaling \$900; Marj M. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Susan R. closed by stating they will continue discussion once Pauline reports back on the other clubs.

Next Meetings

Thursday, February 21, 2013 at 7 p.m.

Monday, February 25, 2013 at 6 p.m.

Monday, March 18, 2013 at 6 pm

Adjournment

MOTION: Marj M. motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 PM; John B. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

/kd