

BUDGET / FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, December 9, 2013

Mt. Hope High School

Present

Subcommittee: Susan Rancourt, Chair, Marjorie McBride and Paul Silva

School Committee, Administration and Staff: Karen Lynch (6:46 p.m.) and John Saviano, Melinda Thies, Mario Andrade (6:39 p.m.), Pauline Silva, George Simmons,

Guests: Nathan Calouro and Walter Burke

Susan Rancourt, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM.

Susan R. stated the purpose of the meeting is to approve committing an additional \$100,000 in matching funds for Grant funding to be used for drainage issues on the athletic fields at MHHS.

MOTION: Paul S. made a motion to approve committing and

additional \$100,000 in matching funds for Grant funding to be used for drainage issues on the athletic fields at MHHS; seconded by Marj M.

Paul S. stated by way of review that last month the School Committee voted to approve \$200,000 for this grant, but Walter Burke discovered since then that instead of a \$400,000 grant, it would be an \$800,000 grant which would require an additional committal of \$100,000 by the School Department. Paul S. added that Walter B. had spoke with the Bristol Town Council about joining the School Department in helping to fund this project. The Bristol Town Council enthusiastically voted to approve covering \$100,000 as well. Paul S. commented that Walter B. stated that the Bristol Town Council assured him, on the record, that every penny of this grant will be spent for the School Department facility and that the plans must be adhered to.

Melinda T. stated that she and Pauline S. made contact with Joe DaSilva at RIDE. He supervises school construction projects in the State. Melinda T. commented that Mr. DaSilva is very familiar with the MHHS site. She said that Mr. DaSilva stated due to the erosion to the building from the water, he sees this as an emergency project. As of that date, a letter of intent to move forward was submitted. Melinda T. said that Mr. DaSilva stated that the funding put forth by the School Department will be reimbursable through the Housing Authority. Pauline S. added the reimbursable percentage would be between 66% and 76%. Pauline S. stated she submitted the Stage 1 application to

RIDE to bring before the House of Regents in May. Paul S. asked Pauline S. to update the Subcommittee with results of that application. Melinda T. stated Mr. DaSilva felt the project could be presented to the Board of Education in May even if the moratorium continued or in August if the moratorium is lifted. Melinda T. said that Mr. DaSilva would like to see a new site constructed for the high school stating a concern of whether the Board of Education would be willing to invest more money into a site with structural concerns. Paul S. commented the School Department does not have the means to build on a new site. Marj M. feels that if the drainage issues are addressed, it will solve the structural issues.

Walter B. commented that he spoke with a Town Council member who is running for Mayor of the Town of Cumberland. This person shared there were wetland fields in Cumberland which experienced a 2 ½ foot drop in water level as a result of Par Engineering's recommendations. Par Engineering is the group that the School Department will be using.

George S. expressed a concern about water retention areas. He stated that moving forward the plans must include ways to dissipate those areas citing issues with mosquitoes.

Pauline S. expressed concern about the scope of what \$800,000 will provide and how it will piggyback with the field design. Walter B. responded that not everything will be addressed, but added it is not

just for drainage issues, but; to build fields. He stated he does not want to fix the drainage issues and then not receive a benefit. Walter B. stated that the intent of the master plan is to have Par Engineering go through everything so that the School Department gets the “most bang for the buck”.

The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

MOTION: At 6:50 p.m. Paul S. made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Marj M. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

kd