

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence School Committee

East Providence City Hall

145 Taunton Avenue, - Conference Room 306

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

February 18, 2013

Open Session

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mr. Monteiro, Chairman. School Committee members in attendance: Elizabeth Clupny, Timothy Conley, Anthony Ferreira (Richard Pimentel, absent).

Also present: Kim Mercer, Superintendent of Schools, Malcolm Moore, Finance Director, Linda Dykeman, Deputy Finance Director, and Edward Catelli, Facilities Director.

Also present: Irons Construction (Steve) and Ben Williams from SMMA (architect).

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag & Moment of Silence were observed.

Action Item

High School Science Lab Facilities Presentation and Possible Change

Order Approval

Discussion took place:

Ben Williams – beginning with walk-throughs of buildings, areas were identified; it was noted that science lab had problems, i.e. counter top, electrical outlet problem; life safety issues to protect students, etc. Equipment had outlet next to gas lab; water next to gas and electric a concern; eye wash – rusty and dilapidated; chemistry lab needed floor replacement tiles. Equipment and communal equipment – replace work stations and pieces of equipment as part of life safety; new equipment update. Over the summer, shop drawings done of cabinets; wanted Science Department to see if acceptable; storage issues surfaced; SMMA tried to improve on storage and esthetics—only proposal requests for prices; laboratory cabinetry—that’s where discussion started; sophisticated equipment – why not give students an area that is more comfortable and more durable for students. Take care of peg board on walls; hide wires in wall, and new sheet rock. Two classrooms would be able to use equipment which made room more functional; better use of equipment; intent was to make the classroom multi-functional (could use for two classes); added dry erase board to allow for this. Recap: One request of Science Dept. – sinks were in the middle – sinks moved to end of room near teacher stations; resolve storage issues; requested another sink; added four walls sheet rock- dropped ceiling; little demo; cabinetry; change of sinks; programmatic changes of Science Dept. Mr. Catelli stated that he would have detailed prices by Friday

2/21/14.

Steve from Irons – various changes to price out; CCD 19 - \$90,000 – should not be that much – some due to sub-contractors confusion; he will have prices by Friday, which will not be anywhere near the \$90,000 figure; cabinetry - no additional cost on that. (Ed Catelli will receive prices and review with SMMA).

Iron Construction – Steve stated that he already purchased the lights; cadillac cabinets-will be starting around March 6th; all materials will be in and will go right to installation and stay on it until completed; will work thru March 30th – conservative completion date 4/15/14.

Mr. Monteiro had questions on some of the numbers.

Ben – series of PR's made pricing complicated; things overlapped and became confusing – pared work back at one point; looked for expedited, more modest cost. Ben – was for district; (CCD– R2 items he mentioned before). Ben asks for pricing between architect and builder; work outside of scope; ongoing process.

Steve stated that everything will be in prior to Friday (he asked the subs).

Ben stated this is an important issue and will have as soon as possible.

Mr. Ferreira stated that five to six weeks ago – issue was/is \$90,000; School Committee authorized \$175,000 for science lab; what was the \$90,000 for? He thought it was \$175,000; discussion is \$90,000 more, but numbers are not available to put the room together 100%.

Ben – the \$90,000 is a combination of CCD-12 reconfiguration of lab

casework to 12 feet long; linear feet of cabinetry reconfigured to surround fume hood; offered \$175,000 upgrades; \$90,000- request for pricing construction change CCD-12; PR4-6-7 cosmetic work (pegboard falling off the walls); in \$90,000 pull it off and then sheet rock walls; offset--do not need to take peg board down; gave district reasonable options; separate PR4; demolition PR6; sheet rock PR7; some confusion occurred; subs all gathered; some overlap on items. Mr. Ferreira said he is offended by inflated numbers; School Committee voted/approved for \$175,000 of work to the science lab; where did this come from? School Committee not advised; when he voted, it was etched in stone; changed without coming back to School Committee; \$175,000 never given a clean proposal, then stretched apart – inflated to \$90,000; now at \$265,000.

Ben – no cosmetic on walls; no dropped ceiling; new lights – sinks when scope discussed – as much as possible do work life safety – walk through with Fire Marshall identified life safety issues; fume hood shared; plumbing/electrical – demo with that – \$175,000 bought this; changes provided a cleaner more hygienic lab; there was an effort to improve beyond just replacing equipment.

Mr. Monteiro stated there is no more information than last time; someone needs to break it out with figures; he has been frustrated and concerned about getting that information.

Mr. Ferreira stated that all understood what we would get for \$175,000 as of last Wednesday 100% except windows and heating system, but from Wednesday to now, no pricing has been done; i.e. what is cost of ceiling, etc. He left a three hour meeting with the understanding

that School Committee would be able to approve this and a crew would start Wednesday morning if \$90,000 approved; if not \$175,000. Mr. Ferreira said he does not understand why we are meeting tonight and he cannot vote on anything tonight.

Irons – Steve said he thought the meeting was for everyone to go take a look at the room and get a final proposal from Ben of SMMA; then he would expedite the pricing; seven days to get prices not unusual; they needed to clarify items (eye wash station, plumbing, etc.).

Ben said he was directed to put a proposal together and a chronology on how decisions were made; had to confirm that it was OK to be priced; hoping to get this out tomorrow.

Mr. Monteiro asked in the \$90,000, what would be different; an example: this was what we would have with \$90,000; why not itemized: sheet rock \$___ ceiling \$___ cabinets \$___ to get to ballpark within \$10,000; at some point, someone had estimates on this work. He thought they would have information from original \$90 thousand-- this is what we are looking at.

Ed Catelli thought this would be a finalization; he thought Irons would price it out.

Mr. Rossi (City Council) asked who approved the original submittals; all that information should be on file somewhere.

Irons – Steve stated that it would not be \$90,000. School Committee could take some action.

Mr. Ferreira signed off on \$175,000; (\$50-90,000 range) room ripped apart four months ago, then came to a screeching halt – now over \$50 thousand with still no answers; if School Committee push will not get

anywhere - he asked why Mike Taber, Project Manager, not present at this meeting. Mr. Ferreira still waiting for \$90 thousand of change orders; the meeting tonight was for nothing. Mr. Ferreira said he was on board with this, but the School Committee was left out after \$175 thousand and never received any paperwork; never given a second set of drawings. Who was making decisions on his behalf; Chair signed off on \$175,000 – he has no knowledge of any changes being made.

Mr. Monteiro asked to schedule the next week meeting with Mike Taber present with the numbers to be able to vote on any change from the original \$175,000 plan.

Mr. Ferreira wants a list of items from 1-5; what items changed from \$175 to \$265; balance of \$90 thousand – itemized list of items with dollar amount of each item and a time frame for each item. What are we spending \$90,000 on; is it 3-4 items; put numbers next to what the items are– exception should be windows and heating.

Fred Rybka – questioned life safety items– where did money come from; Whiteknact needs a roof?

Mrs. Rossi asked who signed the change orders.

Ed Catelli – Farrar – everything on #38 change order – School Committee should be signing those; ask Project Manager not to sign off on change orders – AIA documents.

Mr. Ferreira asked the question – “why did project stop?”

Superintendent Mercer responded that she had the project stopped.

Next meeting 2/26 at 6PM; Mr. Catelli will request that Mr. Taber be present. Motion by Ms. Clupny to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Ferreira.

Vote 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Elizabeth Clupny, Clerk of the Committee