

Newtown Board of Education
CIP/Facilities/Finance Sub Committee Minutes
July 28, 2016

Call to Order: Committee Chair, Debbie Leidlein called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Present: Debbie Leidlein, Rebekah Harriman-Stites, Ron Bienkowski, Gino Faiella

Public Participation: None

Approval of minutes: Debbie Leidlein made a motion to approve the minutes of June 17, 2016, Rebekah Harriman-Stites seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business:

Item 1 Food Service Update

The contract was finalized with signatures from Whitsons and the BOE Chair, and forwarded to the State of Connecticut and approved. The employee benefit issues have been resolved. Whitsons, Chartwells and NPS agreed on what would be paid for the employees. There were 4-5 employees that Whitsons wanted to split the cost at 50% as a good will gesture, which will not be reflected on the bottom line of our contract. NPS was also able to add about \$1237 from a nutrition grant that Chartwells gave us a few years ago which had a balance remaining. Mr Bienkowski received approval from the Superintendent and the Chair of BOE to use the balance to help resolve the issue.

Item 2 Transportation Negotiations Update

Since the BOE meeting of July 21st Mr. Bienkowski spoke with attorneys regarding specifics. Mr. Bienkowski stated that we hope to be going to propane vehicles. When you talk about cost, propane vehicles are about \$9000/vehicle more. We may have a justification in the increase of cost because of the propane vehicles. Propane is green and helps with maintenance and is also the selling points for environmental aspects. Mr Bienkowski stated that there is a grant available if we buy the propane fuel, so that would further reduce the cost that we have to pay. Mr Faiella asked if we would have our own propane station. Mr. Bienkowski stated the propane station would be located on the property where transportation is located and that this is a change in fueling operations. This is not done easily and will take time. The fact that we are dealing with this contract now gives transportation the time to order the buses to figure out what the zoning requirements are for propane and to get this all resolved far in advance. Mrs. Leidlein asked how does this effect our fuel cost vs propane. Mr. Bienkowski stated that propane is cheaper, if we get government subsidy it will be even cheaper than diesel fuel, but you need more propane to cover the same amount of miles per gallon that diesel provides. You cannot do a 1 to 1 comparison. Using propane would reduce our fuel costs but it also depends on the number of vehicles. Every year we would have a cost savings regardless of a per bus charge going up with our fuel cost going down.

Item 3 Budget

Mr. Bienkowski stated that they are still working on closing out 2015-16 budget. Bills are still straggling in.

The budget is now over allocations of the total budget but we will use the excess cost grant legislation to provide that as a revenue offset. Over all, the tuition account will show a \$900,000 deficit but is covered by the budget freeze. We will be setting up a receivable for the excess cost grant that would be available in April. The calculations amount to set up would be about \$83,000. Once we apply the \$83,000 to the operating budget as a credit, we will be back within budget.

Mr. Bienkowski was concerned on how to present the transfers of last years budget in the next BOE meeting. Mr. Bienkowski stated he would like to explain the transfers in the narrative of the financial report in order to keep the report at a minimum. Mr. Bienkowski will ask the BOE to accept the financial report as the recommended transfers.

Item 4 CIP

Mr Bienkowski stated the last CIP meeting was on June 17th. Then on June 24th Mr. Bienkowski, Robert Mitchell, Geralyn Hoerauf, Gino Faiella, and Joe Erardi met to talk about the HS auditorium. It was at that meeting they went over the budget. There was a preview to this in the Newtown Bee on March 4th regarding the wish list. They were concerned that a lot of the things they originally wanted to get done were not able to be done. At the June 24th meeting they again went over the budget and talked about adding a phase 2 to the CIP.

Mr. Faiella stated on the HS auditorium that we met our budget without doing the structural steel, rigging components , ADA equipment, stage draperies, stage lighting and controls which would be completed after the Auditorium was done. These are the things that were not included in the scope. These items would now be in the phase 2 project of the HS auditorium. Mrs. Leidlein asked for a list of these items which Mr. Faiella would provide.

Mr. Faiella stated the original scope was actually way back when we met with Bob Mitchell and having the Public Building and Site Commission involved with our CIP. We had 1.4M to bring mechanicals up to date, new carpeting, new runway lights, new seating. Then we started talking ADA with Kaestle Boos. They suggested we add in the ADA requirements. Then a wish list was created from additional requests and we ended up at 3.6M. That is the history how we got to the 3M. The project will still meet ADA requirements. Everything is included except for the items listed in the phase 2 project. These components will come up to about \$769,000. Escalated up could be \$800,000. Mr. Faiella recommends \$850,000 into CIP for 17-18. Option 1 we could push out roof replacement at Hawley, Option 2 is still working with ABS to get a real number for the boiler project for the MS. Mr Faiella stated he should have that in 2 wks. ABS's number looks like to come out to around 1.132M from 1 year ago, not 2.2M . The 2.2M includes professional services and demolition which still needs to be completed. Mr. Bienkowski stated the CIP plan would change to add the HS auditorium Phase 2 project to number

1(attached). Ms. Leidlein stated she would like to have the material available in case they decide to present at the August 16th and the September 6th BOE meeting.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Debbie Leidlein and second by Rebekah Harriman-Stites. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:05.

The next BOE Sub Committee Meeting will be held on August 15, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Morris