

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL FACILITIES PLANNING COMMITTEE
MAY 4, 2015**

ATTENDANCE: Artie Kassimis, Chairman, Bryan Meek

STAFF:

Richard Rudl, Chief Financial Officer;
William Hodel, Director of Facilities;
Christie Fensore, Director of Special Education

OTHER:

Richard Bonenfant, Common Council Member;
Alan Lo, Director of Facilities & Building Management

Call to Order

Mr. Kassimis called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. and introduced those in attendance.

Roosevelt Center – Norwalk Early Childhood Center

Mr. Kassimis explained that there is a recommendation to modify the renovation plans for the Roosevelt Pre-K center, and asked Mr. Rudl to present the item.

Mr. Rudl gave an overview of the original goal of the project was to consolidate eight special education pre-K classrooms at six elementary schools to one location, with six existing classrooms and the gymnasium converted to two additional classrooms. The scope changed and additional funding and roadwork was needed bringing it approximately \$2 million over budget. He outlined that in order to see if they could go forward with this project, decided to take a step back and look at six classrooms:

- AP Construction Co., the firm selected to complete renovations, provided the school district with a revised cost estimate last week, estimating a project cost of \$2.5 million to complete six classrooms.
- Of that \$2.5 million, there are some items that are considered ineligible for reimbursement. The total amount that is eligible for reimbursement is about \$2.3 million. At a reimbursement rate of 33% a reimbursement of about \$750,000 Norwalk's share would be \$1.7 million.
- The Board and BET approved nearly \$1.7 million in renovation funds after the school district showed a \$2.9 million surplus in its operating budget last school year.
- A shortfall of about \$64,000 will be covered by a \$300,000 excess from the close out leftover of the \$70 million master facilities capital project several years ago.

Mr. Rudl presented the following breakdown of the funding:

**NORWALK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NORWALK EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER**

| | NECC |
|---|---------------------|
| Hard Construction Costs | \$ 1,539,070 |
| Soft Costs | \$ 927,818 |
| Total Project Costs | \$ 2,466,888 |
| | |
| Ineligible Work | \$ 177,000 |
| | |
| Total Eligible Work | \$ 2,289,888 |
| | |
| Reimbursement (32.86% of Addition & Alteration) | \$ 752,457 |
| | |
| Norwalk's Share | \$ 1,714,431 |

| Funding Sources: | Amount |
|---|---------------------|
| Unexpended Funds Appropriation | \$ 771,000 |
| Special Capital Appropriation | \$ 880,000 |
| <i>70 Million Capital Project Close Out</i> | <i>\$ 64,000</i> |
| | \$ 1,715,000 |

There was discussion of the funding as outlined.

Mr. Lo distributed copies of the schematic plan and described where the rooms would be located and the entrance would be modified not fully renovated at this point. There was discussion about the parking lot and the drop-off/pick up logistics for a timing arrangement with the Senior Center.

Mr. Kassimis explained that this revised plan will be presented to the full school board during the May 19 meeting. Mr. Lo noted that they will have to reapprove an Ed. Spec. that outlines construction details, and it will be submitted to the state for approval by June 30. There was discussion on the timing, as follows:

- If approved, construction will begin November or December and would take approximately five months to complete. The school would open during the 2016-17 school year.
- Mr. Kassimis noted that it would come to the Board for approval at the May 19 meeting. The City approval would be on the agenda to the Norwalk Facilities Construction Commission and Land Use and Building Management Committee in June.

Mr. Meek asked about the goal of reducing transportation costs and timing, and suggested that Cranbury be left as is due to the close proximity to Roosevelt Center.

Ms. Fensore explained that the consolidated center would allow the school district to combine a number of its special needs resources, to include speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists and behavior specialists.

Mr. Rudl added that once construction is complete, the six renovated classrooms will accommodate a maximum of 18 students each. Two of the eight special ed. pre-K classes currently in operation will remain in its current school buildings.

Mr. Rudl said an expansion for the two additional classrooms at Roosevelt School could possibly be added into a future capital budget for the second phase of the renovation.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Knox
Telesco Secretarial Services