

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF EDUCATION FACILITIES COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 13, 2017**

ATTENDANCE: Michael Barbis, Brian Meek, Heidi Keyes

STAFF: Thomas Hamilton, NPS Finance Director; Bill Holden, NPS
Facilities & Maintenance Director

OTHERS: Alan Lo, Land Use and Building Management; Council Member
Thomas Livingston; Joseph Giandurco, NFT First Vice President;
Meagan Occhiogrosso, Greenskies

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Barbis called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. He announced that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**** MS. KEYES MOVED THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 2017.**

**** MR. BARBIS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 2017 AS
SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Review Cranbury School Asbestos Abatement Project, and take any action as
necessary.**

Mr. Hamilton said that there may be some actions needed from the Board because the District will be applying to the State for the 32% project reimbursement.

A timeline and schematics were included in the Committee's information packet. The project is currently part of the Capital budget. Mr. Hamilton gave a brief overview of the City's approval process and he said that the Board would need to approve the submission of the application for the grant funding.

Mr. Hodel said that he has been working with the administration at Cranbury and there are asbestos floor tiles underneath some carpeting in the Kindergarten wing. He said that they hoped have the administration and library wings also abated. The summer programs have been relocated to other schools. The timeline is tight, and needs to be moved forward in order to have the work completed over the summer. Since this is a non-priority project, the specs can be submitted during the year. In order to get this done during the summer, the request for approval of the grant submission needs to be on the full Board agenda for the 23rd.

Mr. Barbis asked for some clarification on the details. Mr. Hodel said that the students that are scheduled for Cranbury summer school will be attending their classes at Wolfpit. The furniture will most likely be stored in the gym during the work. Ms. Keyes asked about the final day of classes and graduation. Mr. Hodel explained that he only has input about the project timeline scheduling.

Mr. Giandurco said that he did not think that the schedule had been shared with the staff at Cranbury. Mr. Hodel said that the principal had suggested that PODs be used for storage of the classroom equipment and the kitchen equipment.

**** MR. MEEK MOVED TO FORWARD THE CRANBURY SCHOOL ASBESTOS ABATEMENT PROJECT TO THE FULL BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR APPROVAL.**

**** MR. BARBIS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Hamilton said that he would need approval of specs from the Board and would have all the information ready for the full Board to review.

Review proposal to enter into a solar Power Purchase Agreement with Greenskies, Inc. to install solar power panels at Norwalk High School and Naramake School, and take any action necessary.

Mr. Barbis said that the Committee had reviewed the information and referred the item to Mr. Hodel in order to decide if the idea was feasible. He added that he hoped there would be some kind of meter in the lobby of the schools so the students could see how much power the panels were generating.

Mr. Hamilton said that the Board would be authorizing the Superintendent to sign the agreement and that the contract was being reviewed by the City's Corporation Counsel. Mr. Barbis asked if this would be done over the summer. Ms. Occhiogrosso said that they would try to get as much done over the summer as they can but expected it to go over into the first weeks of school.

Ms. Keyes asked if the parents had been notified. Mr. Hodel said that he has spoken with the principals but would be discussing this again with them and they would be notifying the staff and parents.

Mr. Meek asked how they would update the system. Ms. Occhiogrosso said that they would be swapping out the panels as better technology becomes available because it is in everyone's best interest. Mr. Hodel said that they were also going to be installing panels on the roof of City Hall. Mr. Livingston then said that the City Hall panels were on the

Council agenda for the 14th, but due to the impending snowstorm, the meeting had been canceled.

Mr. Hamilton asked some detailed questions about the financing, which Mr. Lo and Ms. Occhiogrosso answered. Ms. Occhiogrosso said that the schools would be using the power on site, but during the summer, any excess would be siphoned off to the grid. Mr. Hamilton asked what would happen at Naramake. Mr. Hodel said that there was a summer program there, so they would be using the building.

Mr. Meek asked if anyone from the City had spoken with the towns that had already installed the panels. Mr. Lo said that they had checked with a few of the towns that had installations.

**** MS. KEYES MOVED TO FORWARD THE PROPOSAL TO ENTER INTO A SOLAR POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH GREENSKIES, INC. TO INSTALL SOLAR POWER PANELS AT NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL AND NARAMAKE SCHOOL TO THE FULL BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR APPROVAL.**

**** MR. MEEK SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Review proposal to address ADA issues identified by the City's ADA Compliance Coordinator, and take any action necessary.

Mr. Hodel said that the Human Relations Department had been working with the various City departments to update ADA issues. He said that there were two items that needed attention. Two wheelchair ramps at Norwalk High will be replaced with some kind of composite material that does not rot. At Brien McMahon, there will need to a cane guard installed underneath a stairwell in the main lobby where a visually impaired person might not be aware of the staircase overhang.

Mr. Barbis said that Mr. Wells, the Democratic Registrar of voters, had approached him about the ADA access for the voting sites in school buildings. Mr. Meek said that most of the complaints centered around the back door to the voting site at West Rocks.

Mr. Hamilton said that the City had approached the District about ADA issues and indicated that they were eager to work with the District on these issues. These are just the first few items.

No action was needed by the Committee at this time.

Review General Improvements to Alliance District School Buildings Grant application and proposed projects, and take any action as necessary.

Mr. Hamilton said that there was an information sheet about the Alliance District School Buildings Grant application in the packet. There are 30 Alliance District in the State and this would allow funding for Capital repairs that would not normally be eligible for school building reimbursements. Last year, the District was able to replace the pool decking and some lockers at some of the schools. The State has established a tight time frame for application. The first deadline is March 31st and the second on May 30th. He said that he would like to get the full application up to the State as soon as possible. The funding must be encumbered by June 30th.

Mr. Hamilton gave a brief overview of the items proposed for Nathan Hale(ceiling upgrades, carpet upgrades, A/C upgrade, and Learning Commons) , Brien McMahon (replacement of boilers), Norwalk High (retractable bleachers and other upgrades) and a variety of other projects at other schools.

Mr. Hamilton said that he would like the Committee to vote on this tonight and move it to the full Board, so this could be submitted by the March 31st deadline.

**** MR. MEEK MOVED TO FORWARD THE GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS TO ALLIANCE DISTRICT SCHOOL BUILDINGS GRANT APPLICATION AND PROPOSED PROJECTS TO THE FULL BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

**** MS. KEYES SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Meek asked if the exterior of NHS could be power washed before graduation because the exterior looks awful. Mr. Hamilton explained that there was a long term solution included in the BOE Capital Budget and that everyone had to wait until the Budgets were approved. Mr. Hodel said that the building had been power washed in 2013 and it should be done again. He will look into this.

Mr. Meek then asked if anyone had thought about the foldable cafeteria tables at one of the schools that were getting older and becoming a safety hazard. Mr. Hamilton said that the replacement of the tables was included in the Alliance General Improvement projects list under the furniture upgrades.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Barbis adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services.

City of Norwalk
Board of Education Facilities Committee
Special Meeting
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