

**NORWALK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FACILITIES COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
APRIL 24, 2017**

ATTENDANCE: Mike Barbis

STAFF: Thomas Hamilton, Finance Director; William Hodel, Director of Facilities and Maintenance; Alan Lo, Building and Facilities Manager

OTHER: Bruce Kimmel, Common Council member; Joseph Giandurco

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Barbis called the meeting to order at 6:15PM. He noted that while there was no quorum, the meeting would be held as an informational session with no votes or approval action.

Mr. Barbis noted that the Education Specifications Committee meeting was held last Wednesday at Columbus School and it was a successful meeting. He said that the next meeting has been scheduled for May 9, 2017, and he is organizing field trips to visit certain schools and that only two committee members have responded.

Mr. Hamilton highlighted the steps that need to be taken between now and when the SCG-049A is filed which is no later than June 30, 2017. He discussed the Office of School Construction Grants application submission checklist and said that item two has to go before the local legislative body which will be the Common Council, and that items three and four will require the board's written approval. He said that the education specifications committees have been formed for the school at the Nathaniel Ely site and at Ponus Ridge School, and those committees have already met and there is a follow up meeting scheduled. He said that the Superintendent is hoping to have it finalized in three meetings in May, and it will go before the full board for approval at the June meeting. Mr. Lo said that besides these two projects that the phase II window replacement at West Rocks School will be going at the same time. Mr. Hamilton said that is a standalone project but will need to same approval process as Nathaniel Ely and Ponus. Mr. Kimmel asked the status of the funding for phase II. Mr. Lo said that it has been approved as part of the capital budget. Mr. Hamilton said as part of the application that they will need something from the City Clerk certifying the bonding resolution and that he will be contacting Mr. Barron for the resolution.

Mr. Hamilton said that as part of the application that the enrollment projections are required and he distributed and discussed the updated enrollment projections, and said that the projections indicated that the original projection of the districts enrollment growth has been validated, and that the update incorporates the addition of the new schools. Mr. Giandurco asked if there is any

explanation as to why the numbers for certain schools continue to fluctuate. Mr. Hamilton said that the October 1, 2017, numbers were updated for the budget in advance of doing this report, and for the purpose of preparing the budget they updated the enrollment projections and that is what the budget was based on. He said that he thinks the report is done on how the state requires it to be done and includes the new schools prior to them being constructed. He requested that the committee go through the report and if there are further questions or concerns to send them to him.

Mr. Hamilton distributed the revised Board of Education five year capital proposal which included the funds received from the city and asked if there are any additional programs that have been approved that should be fast tracked. There was discussion ensued regarding capital needs implementation and Mr. Hamilton said in addition to the priority I and II items, there was \$25,000 set aside at Cranbury and Fox Run schools to have an electrical study and evaluation done to provide a solution and identify what the cost will be. He said that they have indicated that they want that work to proceed, and that the evaluation is not something that the state will assist in paying for. Mr. Hodel provided an update on the current electrical system and said there is an antiquated electrical service at both schools, and that Eversource had said that if the electrical gets updated at Cranbury School that they are willing to upgrade the service at no charge. Mr. Kimmel asked why the focus is just on these two schools and not other schools. Mr. Barbis said this is where the problems currently are and the other schools currently have adequate power.

Mr. Hodel said that they are also planning on doing the asbestos abatement at Cranbury School this summer, and they have also received an alliance grant for \$1,080,000.00 and they will be replacing the boilers within the next 12 months. Mr. Kimmel asked what other schools if any have boiler problems. Mr. Hodel said Wolfpit and Fox Run where the boilers are aging. There was discussion regarding the underground storage tanks and Mr. Hodel said that there are currently 12 underground storage tanks within the Board of Education and theoretically they should be raised. Mr. Hamilton said that upgrading the bathrooms at a number of the schools was included as a project and asked if the state would provide reimbursement. Mr. Lo said "yes" if they were ADA compliant. Mr. Hamilton suggested getting involvement from the school community on each of these schools, and getting input from the new program manager and establish an overall plan and strategy on how to put the projects forward, and packaging the projects that are eligible for state reimbursement and have the those projects together in time to meet the deadlines. He suggested holding off doing the Cranbury, Fox Run and Norwalk High School projects that are eligible for state reimbursement until June, 2018, but that he is not suggesting not going forward with any the projects that are not going to be eligible for state reimbursement. After further discussion it was decided that would be the strategy going forward.

## **2. APPROVE THE MINUTES**

**\*\* THE APPROVAL OF MINUTES WAS TABLED DUE TO A LACK OF A QUORUM.**

**3. REVIEW THE NEW K-8 BANK STREET COLLEGE INTRA-DISTRICT MAGNET SCHOOL AT ELY SITE AND TAKE ANY ACTION AS NECESSARY.**

Mr. Hamilton said the same set of actions plans need to be in place that were discussed previously, and that the committee is formed and the educational specifications committee is meeting on the same schedule. He said that there is no action for the committee or board to take at this time.

**4. REVIEW PONUS RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL RENOVATING PLANS, AND TAKE ANY ACTION AS NECESSARY.**

Mr. Hamilton said that this is the same process as Nathaniel Ely School and there is no action for the committee or board to take at this time.

Mr. Kimmel left at 7:00PM.

**5. REVIEW WEST ROCKS MIDDLE SCHOOL WINDOWS AND DOOR REPLACEMENT PROJECT, AND TAKE ANY ACTION AS NECESSARY.**

Mr. Hamilton said that the same process for phase II of the project will need to be done as is being done for the Ponus School project. Mr. Lo provided an update of phase I of the project and said there are two contractors on the project, and that they have met to discuss the scheduling and timing issues and that he has contacted the Law Department to request that the execute a contract as soon as possible.

Mr. Hamilton said that they want to keep the board informed through the facilities committee regarding the status of projects, but there is no legal requirement to have dual approvals going first through the Board of Education, and then through the city because the authorizations are ultimately authorizing the Mayor to sign a contract or to execute a change order, and it would not be appropriate for the Board of Education to authorize the Mayor to sign a contract.

**6. CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR DISCUSSION:**

**ROWAYTON CAFETERIA**

Mr. Hodel said that this was put out to bid and that they received five responders and had shortlisted three. He said that the interviews were held and they hope to have the decision made by tomorrow morning, and that it will be put on the agenda for approval at the May 3, 2017 Land Use meeting. Mr. Barbis asked if the work would be done this summer. Mr. Hodel said “yes”.

**NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL: PRIORITY 1 AND 2 ITEMS PLUS CONVERSION OF LOWER LEVEL SHOP ARE TO EDUCATIONAL SPACE, FOLLOWED BY PRIORITY 3 AND 4.**

Mr. Hamilton asked if there is any project at Norwalk High School that will need to be done this summer. Mr. Hodel said that the recommendations from the School Governance Council has very few priority I projects and that this can be tabled until the following year.

Mr. Barbis said that there are a lot of things that need to be done to the building and suggested a staged plan be done. Mr. Hodel said as part of the alliance grant they have requested new bleachers in the gym and are waiting for approval. Mr. Barbis asked the status on the ventilation system for the pool. Mr. Hamilton said that a repair will be done as opposed to a full replacement and that there are enough funds available in the Norwalk High reserve account.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MR. BARBIS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd  
Telesco Secretarial Services