

Newtown Board of Education  
CIP/Facilities/Finance Meeting Minutes  
March 31, 2016

**CALL TO ORDER:** 8:30 a.m.

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

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

None

**APPROVED MINUTES**

- Minutes of February 1, 2016 approved with the correction of Rebekah Harriman-Stites spelling of name.
- Minutes of March 9, 2016 approved with the correction of Smith, Edwards, McCoy selected as the architect.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Item 1 Current CIP Items**

The High School field house placement is 5 years out. It is not going to be just a building. The building will need lights, cameras, and possibly a water source? The closest water tap is near the snack shack. We need to get a sense of how much it would cost to include adding water to the scope of the project.

The main boiler replacement at the High School – \$900,000 cost number needs to be reviewed since the figure was a rough estimate. We have time to review the cost since we do not have to present this until late summer, early fall. We need Bob Mitchell to review.

Mr. Faiella is currently working on numbers for Middle School boiler as a energy conservation measure so we will get rebates from the power company. He is looking at all cost numbers for year 2017/18. Of the \$475,000 project for Middle Gate we are looking at about \$424,000 with 10% contingency. This does not take into consideration a potential rebate from the power company.

\$2.2M for Middle School boiler plant is being reviewed. Garland is reviewing the \$1.4M for the High School roof and the \$800,000 replacement of the roof at Hawley to make sure we are going in the right direction.

We are still working on the cost numbers of the HS auditorium and where we are today as we impressed on them that we need a sound system. We are not currently saving any money yearly because we have to rent out all the equipment. We did not get approval from the State for Pre-bid Compliance Review for Phase 1 of the project. The meeting

has been rescheduled for Wednesday April 6<sup>th</sup>. We are also looking at getting into the project, a cost to extend the catwalk and add a spiral stair.

Mr Faiella reviewed CIP from last year and is trying to determine the scope of the \$4.8M for the Middle School and going out one more year to 2018/19. Looking at climate control renovation and code compliance, which project consists of replacement of original boiler plant to a higher efficiency forced water system which is Phase 1 and \$2.1M in cost for 2017/18. Phase 2 which is to replace the existing package HVAC units and enhance ventilation system in building. That becomes the \$4.8M. As a committee, we should determine what the scope should be. Ms. Harriman-Stites states that this is a conversation for the Future Forecast Committee after they give the Board their thoughts. Ms. Leidlein states we need to compare this project with the Hawley project and determine which project has more sense of urgency, and need.

Mr. Faiella states that the systems we currently have at Hawley, Middle School and Middle Gate are unit ventilators on the roof and large exhaust fans that creates a vacuum and pulls air from wherever it can, therefore no filter or controlled air is coming in. Window air conditioners will not solve the problem. The buildings are not set up for that kind of power drain. An HVAC system is very expensive. Ms. Leidlein states we will discuss this further at the next meeting.

Ms. Harriman-Stites asked if there are any issues at Head O'Meadow. Mr. Bienkowski stated there was a complete replacement of the HVAC system at Head O'Meadow in 2004. That was the first climate controlled project done. Mr. Faiella started with a 10 year plan to replace the boilers but that is not included until the 8<sup>th</sup> year.

## **Item 2 Current Budget**

We are still holding projects on the current budget. There was a setback where the state recalculated cost of the Excess Cost Grant in the current year. It was originally at 80% reimbursements and now down to 77%.

## **Item 3 Transportation Contract Renewal/Bid Process**

We do not have to go to bid until October and we are talking with current provider about presenting an extension prior to June. Extending their contract is a two-step process to waive the policy and accept their proposal. All Star is still working on their proposal. We still have time to get the Board involved. We need to have all settled by June in order to go out to bid. The TAS (Transportation Advisory Service) provided service to the district in the past, which was useful. In order for All Star to get a new 5 year contract they would need to give us something for the 5<sup>th</sup> year of this contract. They could reduce the 5% that is scheduled for next year to 2.5 -3% which would contribute in the final budget adjustment. The new contract would start in year 2017/18.

The TAS report would give us a recommendation whether to go out to bid or stay with the contract. All-Star would have to provide the proposal to TAS by May 2016 in order for TAS timeline to have a final recommendation to the Board by June 2016. TAS is the only firm in the country that provides these evaluations. Fee for TAS would not exceed

\$9,860 plus \$1,500 (\$11,000) in expenses for TAS work. The committee is in favor of moving this proposal forward.

**Item 4 Food Service Contract.**

Following the bid calendar - proposals were due on March 30th, 3 proposals came in. Aramark, Whitsons and Chartwells. Evaluations must be completed by April 18th. With declining enrollment we have to look at each proposal carefully, it should not only be about price. Vendors will come to present their proposals on April 5<sup>th</sup>. A target date of April 19<sup>th</sup>, would be to award a proposal by the Board.

**Item 5 Assessment of School Buildings**

Mr. Faiella reached out to people at CES (Cooperative Educational Services) – They are offering a special pricing for us. It's the same company as demographics study of schools from Malone & McBroom. Mr. Faiella has not heard from them yet. This will be discuss further at next meeting.

Next BOE Sub Committee CIP meeting will be held on May 2, 2016. 4:30 p.m.

Adjournment: 9:50am

Debbie Leidlein

Submitted by: Joanne Morris

