

Newtown Board of Education
CIP/Facilities/Finance Committee Minutes
April 10, 2018

Call to Order: Mrs. Leidlein called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Present: Debbie Leidlein, Ron Bienkowski, Dan Delia, Gino Faiella

Public Participation: None

Unfinished Business

Item 1 Mrs. Leidlein accepted the minutes of April 3, 2018. Motion accepted. All in favor.

Item 2 Hawley & Middle Gate Roof Projects

Mr. Bienkowski stated there was no additional information on the roofs since the last meeting and asked the committee if there were any additional questions. Currently the funding for Middle Gate has not been approved at this time. The Middle Gate roof project would be recommended to the Board after the referendum on April 24th. Mrs. Leidlein stated that at this time the CIP Facilities Committee would like to recommend the Hawley roof project and present the motion to the Board of Education.

Item 3 Whitsons

Mr. Bienkowski presented a draft of the 2018-19 cafeteria budget. The State requires school districts to go through a State bid process, which we did 2 years ago. We are in the second year of a 5 year allowed contract with Whitsons. The State requires that with the original bid, years 2-5 have to be presented to the State as a 1 year annual renewal. We are in the second year annual renewal. Mr. Bienkowski explained that the lunch program is two separate programs. The elementary and the High School. The High School is not part of the National School Lunch Program so we do not receive any reimbursement for it. The High School's 2018-19 cafeteria budget reveals a return to the district of \$74,711.

The elementary 2018-19 cafeteria budget, will produce a \$70,021 loss. When you look at the two programs together, it will essentially be a break-even situation. Mr. Bienkowski stated this is the way we have approached this from the beginning. The high school makes the money because they are not on the lunch program and they provide larger quantities, more variety, and the kids eat a lot more; where the elementary schools are a straight type A lunch according to the federal rules which you cannot introduce a lot of variety or options.

Mr. Bienkowski said another alternative is if we want to have more money coming back to us we would have to raise prices and we have not done that in 3 years. Whitsons feels that labor, food, and paper supplies is manageable without price increase. Mr. Bienkowski said he felt we should

not move to the price increase until we absolutely need it. Mr. Delia asked if we should be ahead of the game. Mr. Bienkowski stated that the contract with Whitsons is written as a contractual guarantee. As an example, if the elementary were to lose \$80,000 and we don't have enough from the high school to make that up, it then comes out of Whitson's management fee and administrative expense so we then are held harmless until Whitsons management fee and administrative expenses are completely exhausted. So, it is to our advantage at this point that we don't lose anything. If this happens next year then Whitsons would have to consider a price increase for the subsequent year. Mrs. Leidlein asked if this takes into account the declining enrollment. Mr. Bienkowski stated he provides the enrollment projections to Whitsons to work with.

The Committee set a meeting for May 8th at 5:00 p.m. to discuss this further and make a recommendation to the Board, along with the CIP for next year.

Adjournment

Mrs. Leidlein moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Delia seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Morris