

**Minutes
Facilities Committee
August 1, 2018**

Present:

Ellen Uzenoff, Committee Chair
Gina Albert, Committee Member
Sara Spaulding, Committee Member
Dr. William McKersie, Superintendent of Schools
Richard Rudl, Director of Finance and Operations
Joseph Olenik, Director of Facilities

Guests:

Michael Rizzo, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services
Laura Kaddis, Principal, Hurlbutt Elementary School
Pattie Falber, Principal, Weston Intermediate School
Richard Wolf, Weston Building Committee
John Ireland, Silver Petrucelli and Associates

Public:

Samantha Nestor, Weston Resident

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Uzenoff at 9:37 a.m.

The Committee discussed the following items regarding the space utilization study:

- The Committee reviewed the proposal from Silver Petrucelli for additional services to conduct a space utilization study for the District. John Ireland, from Silver Petrucelli and Associates, reported that a key factor in moving forward with the study is to first determine what is on the table; such as the bus garage, the pool, the annex. This will allow for a more comprehensive study and allow the District to explore all the options that are available. Additionally, it's important to firm up the District's educational specifications and SPED needs as they will be a strong factor in determining the feasibility of a three versus four school district.

- Dr. McKersie stressed that the interest in conducting this additional analysis is to clarify the true extent of space utilization and whether or not it is educationally and financially sound to reconfigure the school district into a smaller set of schools. From current available

evidence, Dr. McKersie believes that the District is optimizing all of the available space and utilizing it for essential programs in SPED, science, world language and music. Contrary to some perceptions, Dr. McKersie does not believe the district has extra space in one or more buildings sufficient to reduce the number of schools without severely affecting the quality of educational programming in Weston. Moreover, Dr. McKersie believes that, even if a school is closed, the projected enrollment would require costly additions and modifications to the remaining schools, resulting in a solution that would not be a cost saving for the district or town. Nevertheless, Dr. McKersie endorses the additional analysis by Silver Petrucelli so that the BOE, BOS, BOF and Weston residents have a full understanding of the educational and financial pros and cons of a four school versus three school campus.

- Mr. Wolf informed the Committee that the study should focus solely on District buildings, and not cover the Town, as the Town is looking to conduct their own facilities study. Dr. McKersie suggested that Mr. Wolf's input would be helpful in drafting questions for the District's study and would welcome his input.
- The Committee recommended moving approval of the study as an addendum to the 10 year facilities study to the full Board of Education for approval.
- The next step in the process would be for Dr. McKersie, Mr. Rudl and Mr. Olenik to meet with Mr. Ireland to refine the draft. It would be shared with the Facilities Committee at its September 2018 meeting. One consideration is to share the draft with Town representatives to determine where it overlaps with other studies of Town facility needs.

The Committee discussed the following items regarding the summer projects update:

Mr. Olenik reported the following:

- Refurnishing of the gym floor at the high school was completed on July 31st.
- Replacement of the high school stadium turf field is scheduled for completion on August 10th. Additionally, Mr. Olenik will provide the Committee with background information and study results affirming the safety of turf fields.
- Repair of the intermediate school knee wall is on schedule to be completed by August 17th, and is currently under budget.
- Wiring for the installation of the high school soccer field camera has been completed, and the estimated date for installation of the field camera is August 18th, with a rain date of August 25th.
- The installation date of the high school gym camera is tentatively set for August 25th.
- The estimated completion date for the middle school cafeteria renovation is August 17th.

- The majority of the wiring and equipment mounting for the installation of the Alertus system has been completed, with the rest to be completed by August 10th. Programming for the system is scheduled to be completed by August 16th, with training on the system to be provided to Assistant Principals and Security Specialists on August 21st.
- The Raptor visitor management system has been installed at the security desks and tested at all schools. During the week of August 13th, the system will be installed in the main office of each school. Draft procedures for the use of Raptor have been created, and will be reviewed and finalized by the Assistant Principals. A message will be sent to all families prior to the start of school notifying them of the new system.
- The wiring and installation of the sound system for the softball field is scheduled to be completed by October 1st.

The Committee discussed the following items regarding the draft list of future capital projects:

- Mr. Rudl shared with the Committee a list of capital projects tentatively scheduled as the priority projects based on the facilities study conducted by Silver Petrucelli (excluding the middle school). The projects would be scheduled for completion over the next five years. Among the projects included are security initiatives (\$950,000), installation of handicap stalls in bathrooms in the high school (\$300,000), replacement of unit ventilators in the old portion of the high school (\$330,000), replacement of the air handling unit in the old gym of the high school (\$275,000) and replacing the boiler in the East House of the elementary school (\$240,000). Mr. Rudl added that he and Mr. Olenik are continuing to refine the cost estimates.

The Committee discussed the following regarding approval of the June minutes:

- The Committee approved the June minutes with minor changes.

The Committee discussed the following regarding other business:

- Mr. Olenik reported that the signage that will be placed on the Parade Ground Court path leading from the intermediate school to Parade Ground Court will be completed once the Human Resources Director returns and is able to draft the copy for it.
- Mr. Olenik reported that the Town Administrator has drafted a letter to a resident to remove bamboo plants that the resident planted as they are now growing on District property. The Town is going to remove the bamboo.

There being no further business to discuss, the Committee adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Galli

Administrative Assistant to the Director of Finance and Operations