

**Minutes  
Facilities Committee  
June 6, 2019**

Present:

Dr. William McKersie, Superintendent of Schools  
Ellen Uzenoff, Committee Chair  
Melissa Walker, Committee Member  
Tony Pesco, Committee Member, via phone  
Richard Rudl, Director of Finance and Operations

Guests:

Kim Kus, Hurlbutt Elementary School Assistant Principal  
Mark Berkowitz, Weston Public Schools Athletic Director  
Dave Ungar, Weston Parks and Recreation Director  
Matt Bernardini, Veolia  
Matt Johnson, Veolia  
Michael Curley, Diamond Landscaping  
Bob Kosolowsky, Diamond Landscaping  
Richard Wolfe, Weston Building Committee

Public:

Gina Albert, Weston Resident  
Jennifer Fruhbeis, Weston Resident

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Uzenoff at 9:32 a.m.

The Committee discussed the following items regarding the athletic field update:

- Mr. Rudl reported that proposals have been received from Diamond Landscaping as well as US Pitchcare regarding repair work that is needed on the athletic fields. The Revson varsity field has issues both in the infield and outfield, while the junior varsity field at Revson has only outfield issues. The middle school softball field has primarily outfield issues but does retain significant amounts of water in the infield given that the field is on wetlands. There is no alternative site for a varsity field within Weston.

- Mike Curley, of Diamond Landscaping, updated the committee on the work his company has done to date on the District's athletic fields, as well as his recommendations for moving forward. It is his opinion the Revson varsity field can be made playable by pitching it correctly. With the way the field is currently pitched, water is unable to run off of it. Additionally, there are holes in the outfield leading to standing water when it rains. Once the holes are filled, the field graded properly, the curtain drain in the outfield cleaned out, and the field Shockwaved, he is confident the problem will be fixed. He also suggested switching to Partac clay instead of the Keegan clay now being used. Mr. Curley also offered to hold a training session with baseball coaches to review the proper way to maintain the fields. Regarding the middle school JV softball field, Mr. Curley recommended adding topsoil to level out the undulations, switching to Partac clay, and Shockwaving that field as well.

- Mr. Rudl reviewed the costs associated with the proposals, from both Diamond Landscaping and US Pitchcare, and also funding options. Among the alternatives available to pay for the work are, requesting a supplemental from the town, increasing the participation fees and coupling that money raised with the current athletic field repair budget (\$20,000), re-allocating existing funds from a currently budgeted line item, which would require a budget cut, or deficit spent to cover this project and implement a freeze later in FY20 or request a partial supplemental. Mr. Rudl also suggested that the District could consider selling advertisement to hang on the outfield fence which would help raise funds, but this would require that the Board revisit their advertisement policy.

The Committee discussed the following regarding the HES playground:

- Ms. Kus reported that Creative Recreation was the winning bidder for the new elementary school playground, and they hope to start construction either the last week of June or first week of July, and be completed by the beginning of August. Dr. McKersie added that this couldn't have been accomplished without the incredible generosity of the PTO.

The Committee discussed the following regarding the campus sewer analysis:

- Mr. Rudl reported that Veolia created a proposal for a district-wide sewer analysis which would develop mapping of existing underground utility mapping for water, storm drainage and sewers for all four schools. The mapping will include the location of the water supply wells, underground septic tanks and the wastewater treatment facility. They would also conduct smoke testing of the sewer system around the middle school and dye testing of all roof drains and any identified inflow sources observed from the smoke testing. The project would take approximately two weeks and would be done when school is not in session. Mr. Johnson added that when it rains they notice a 30% increase in the amount of water going through the Zenon plant, indicating that there are water drains going into the plant which should not be. Mr. Bernardini reported that they did

smoke test approximately 60% of the middle school and did find some cracked sewer pipes and roof leaders. The total cost of the project is nearly \$225,000.

- Dr. McKersie added that the Town would need to be involved somehow in order to pay for the analysis, and the Committee agreed to move this forward to the Finance Committee.

The Committee discussed the following regarding the general facilities update:

- Mr. Rudl updated the Committee on some of the work which the Facilities Department has worked on during the month of May. The District turned on its air conditioning units on May 20<sup>th</sup>, but the chiller at the elementary school, which was approved at referendum to be replaced, failed during start-up, but at the time of the meeting, the chiller had been repaired. Also, a belimo motor on the intermediate school chiller failed during start up as well, but it was replaced and is now operational.
- The District replaced its gas tracking system with a new system which assigns a gas code to an individual. The gas key is then assigned to a vehicle or piece of grounds equipment as opposed to a person. The new system assigns estimated usage to the vehicle or equipment based on gallon capacity and will automatically shut down if consumption exceeds capacity. The system also allows for auditing reports.

The Committee discussed the following regarding the May minutes:

- The Committee approved the May minutes.

The Committee discussed the following regarding other business:

- Dr. McKersie informed the Committee that the administration had been informed by the Town that last week's (June 5, 2019) Building Committee meeting had been cancelled because there was not yet progress to share on various items. Members of the administration were prepared to attend the meeting if it had not been cancelled. Mr. Rudl and Mr. Delmastro, the District's Lead Maintenance Mechanic, will be attending the following week's meeting (June 12, 2019).

There being no further business to discuss, the Committee adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Galli

Administrative Assistant to the Director of Finance and Operations