

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

### **BUDGET & FACILITIES MEETING Meeting Minutes**

**January 14, 2013– 8:30 a.m.  
Daly Annex Building**

Attendance: Vernon McDermott, Robert Ryan, Alan Baer (telephone), Mary Callahan, Dr. Mooney, Karen Sloan, Nora Johnson, Jim Weydig of BBS, Nick Amoruso and Paul Adamo of School Construction Consultants and two members of the public.

#### Update on roof specs—BBS and SCC:

Mr. Amoruso reported that the bond work will be done in two phases: roof and masonry work as Phase I and interior and ADA work as Phase II. Jim Weydig reported that the refined drawings were filed with SED back in November and with an estimated timeframe of 12 weeks the plan is to bid Phase I in March and award in April. Phase II will not be bid at the time Phase I is bid. Mr. Amoroso addressed the question of bidding the project post-Sandy. He indicated that the bidders will be commercial roofers and not the residential roofers who are repairing homes destroyed by Sandy. Jim Weydig also informed the committee he does not believe one contractor will be awarded the entire project but will break up the work into perhaps four contractors. The projects would be broken up into masonry, roofing, or by building. It was suggested that Weber have a separate contractor due to the size of the project.

Mr. Amoroso assured the committee the work will be done after school hours and around the children's schedule. The contractors can work longer than 8 hour shifts taking advantage of daylight hours during the summer months. Jim Weydig indicated that the elementary schools and high school projects should be completed before September with the exception of Weber. Mr. Adamo recommended that the district discuss liquidated damages with our attorneys.

Mr. Amoroso informed the committee the Phase I will begin somewhere around June 15<sup>th</sup> and completed by October 15<sup>th</sup>. It was suggested that updates to the project be posted on the website.

#### Electronic Testing Proposal:

Mary Callahan reported an estimated dollar amount of \$664,000 will be needed to purchase chrome books or ipads for electronic testing that will be required by SED in the 2014-2015 school year. This is assuming the tests will be given on different days for the various grades. This figure was reached by looking at the largest class size in each of the elementary schools to determine how many ipads will be required. Half of the cost can be spent at the end of the 2013-2014 school year and the rest in the first part of 2014-2015 school year. This will allow the district to be up and running with the children familiar with the ipads before the testing begins. Increased simultaneous internet use will also require a wider internet portal.

#### Transportation Considerations:

In an effort to cut budget costs, the committee is looking at potential changes in transportation to consider. Two issues were discussed:

- Changing mileage limits: One option would be to increase the mileage limit by  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile and  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile at each level. Changing the distance  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile at the middle school and high school would reduce busing for almost 600 students. Similar change at the elementary level would result in 740 students who would lose transportation. This would result in a saving of \$360,000. Any change in mileage limits would need voter approval.
- Late buses: If the district eliminated late buses the overall savings would be \$98,000. If private and parochial late buses are eliminated the public school late buses must also be eliminated. One third of late buses are for our own athletics and clubs. The committee will look at the number of riders (which is seasonal) versus dollars.

Discussion Items:

- Formation of a committee of Board members and residents to raise outside sources of funding for the school district, e.g., naming rights. This will be an item for new business on the next Board meeting agenda.
- Initial cost of the math program: Mr. DeStio's budget overall is \$125,000 higher than last year. Two areas he dedicated money are the textbook code and staff development.
- Buy-out of a larger number of teachers: The deadline for the current early notice of retirement is January 31<sup>st</sup>. With the tentative plan to excess 25 teachers, the committee needs to consider if the district is better off slightly increasing the early retirement incentive amount versus unemployment costs for laid off teachers.
- Security: Consideration of 5 additional aides, one at each elementary and two at the middle school, use of the internet to get available information, staff development for emergency situations. The committee would like recommendations from the Emergency Preparedness and Safety Committees.

The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup>.