

**FACILITIES COMMITTEE
EAST HARTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Monday,
November 23, 2009**

A meeting of the Board of Education Facilities Committee was held on Monday, November 23, 2009, at the Central Office Building, 1110 Main Street, East Hartford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 P.M. by Chairman Bryan Hall.

PRESENT Bryan Hall, Chairman, Facilities Committee
Anita Morrison, Facilities Committee Member
Jeffrey Currey, Facilities Committee Member
Robert Damaschi, Member, BOE
Marcus Oladell, IV, Member, BOE
Dorese Roberts, Member, BOE
Tyron Harris, Member, BOE
Mary Alice Dwyer-Hughes, Chairperson BOE

ALSO PRESENT Mark Zito, Superintendent of Schools
Al Costa, Director of Facilities
Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services
Stan Staron, Purchasing Agent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION By Anita Morrison
Seconded by Jeffrey Currey
To approve the following Minutes:
Meeting of November 10, 2009
Motion unanimously carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

DISCUSSION OF REDISTRICTING PROPOSALS AND REFERRAL FIRM TO BOARD

Mr. Hall noted redistricting information was made available at the last Committee meeting. The two firms in contention of being awarded the redistricting study are Ross Haber Associates, Inc. and Harrall-Michalowski Associates. Mr. Staron distributed additional information this evening pertaining to additional hourly rates for both firms, above and beyond those set forth in the proposals.

Ms. Morrison asked Superintendent his thoughts on selection of a firm. Superintendent Zito stated he has preference for the local firm of Harrall-Michalowski Associates. He further noted we did a telephone conference with Manchester where they had performed work. The Superintendent in Manchester was very happy with their performance.

Mr. Mainuli also stated he has preference for the local firm of Harrall-Michalowski Associates. He stated he liked the information our Superintendent received from Manchester's Superintendent and believes we will get detailed information on the redistricting study.

Mr. Costa also agrees with the Superintendent and Mr. Mainuli in their preference for the local firm of Harrall-Michalowski Associates. Mr. Costa noted he has gone through the last redistrict and the process is extensive with a huge amount of data that will be generated.

Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes, Chairperson, BOE, also is leaning toward Harrall-Michalowski Associates. Chairman Hall stated while at a meeting in Hartford, he asked how the firm of Harrall-Michalowski Associates fared while doing Hartford's redistricting. The response was it went very well and test scores have gone up!

Mr. Mainuli noted this redistricting study will be tailor-made for East Hartford. Our overall goal is to raise test scores. Superintendent Zito also stated we would like to work at retaining our students in East Hartford in lieu of them leaving for magnet schools which we pay tuition.

Mr. Damaschi noted transportation could cost \$50,000 or more. Mr. Mainuli noted we have budgeted \$100,000 for the redistrict plan.

MOTION By Anita Morrison
 Seconded by Jeffrey Currey
 To award the redistricting study cost proposal to the firm of
 Harrall-Michalowski Associates and forward to the full Board
 for its approval.
 Motion unanimously carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

REVIEW OF DRAFT LEASE RE: WILLOWBROOK PROPERTY AND REFERRAL TO BOARD FOR ACTION

Al Costa, Director of Facilities, and Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services, noted they have worked with Shipman and Goodwin to complete a draft of the lease terms and fee this lease protects the district. Insurance limits are not available as yet. Cindy Bennett is working on this. Mr. Costa further stated if this Committee supports this lease, we will send it back to Shipman and Goodwin. Once the Town puts the property up for sale, a purchasing agreement would then be drawn up.

MOTION By Anita Morrison
 Seconded by Jeffrey Currey
 To approve the draft lease to relinquish Willowbrook property to the
 Town and have an option to lease it after sale of property and forward
 to the full Board for its approval.
 Motion unanimously carried.

Chairman Hall thanked Mr. Costa and Mr. Mainuli for their input in drawing up the draft lease agreement.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Mainuli – re: building rentals – we are getting calls from the Roughriders every day asking for the use of our buildings at no cost. They are requesting a fee waiver. The building they are interested in using would be from 5:40-9:00 P.M. The Superintendent stated there are contractual obligations for our custodians. Mary Alice Dwyer Hughes stated we would not like to waive fees for one group and not for others. Several others groups are calling requesting fee waivers.

Mr. Mainuli noted he has been telling organizations when they call that we can no longer give fee waivers for outside organizations unless they cover custodial costs and gym fees. The Committee agrees with Mr. Mainuli's response to persons calling for fee waivers.

Superintendent Zito – re: sign at CIBA. The sign must be renamed due to a group already using this name. The sign will be changed to read something similar to: Connecticut Baccalaureate Academy – an IB Academy.

Al Costa – re: would like to have another meeting of the Facilities Committee to close out the books at BOE and Tolland Street facility acquisition. **The Facilities Committee meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2009, 5:30 P.M., BOE office.**

Paul Mainuli – re: scheduling of Budget Workshops: The following budget workshop meetings have been scheduled: Monday, December 14 – 5:30 P.M.; Tuesday, December 15 – 5:30 P.M., and tentatively Thursday, December 17 – 5:30 P.M.

Chairman Hall - re: traffic on Forbes Street between 7:15 and 7:25. Superintendent Zito stated he has met with the Assistant Chief and Chief of Police regarding this issue. They do not have the manpower to have additional PD assistance during this timeframe. Superintendent Zito stated he will call the Chief again, as well as the Mayor for some resolution to this problem. Superintendent Zito also stated he and Mr. Costa will go the site to observe conditions and report back.

MOTION

By Anita Morrison

Seconded by Jeffrey Currey

To adjourn the Facilities Committee meeting (6:20 P.M.)

Motion unanimously carried.

Recorded by:

Donna Fitzgerald