

HAMDEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
60 PUTNAM AVENUE
HAMDEN, CT 06517

MINUTES

OPERATIONS COMMITTEES MEETING
Tuesday, January 2, 2018

Vic Mitchell, Chairman, called the Operations Committee meeting to order at 6:10 P.M.

Operations Members: Vic Mitchell (Chairman), Myron Hul, Arturo Perez-Cabello

Board of Education Members:

Staff: Jody Goeler, Mark Albanese, Mike Belden, Eric Nyquist, Kim Pearce

INFORMATION ITEMS:

ACES regional transportation

Michael Belden, Chief Operating Officer and Kim Planas, Director of Special Education, presented the concept of regional special education transportation to the committee members. They have been working with ACES and several neighboring school districts to come up with a way to work cooperatively in order to share transportation resources and thereby reduce costs to the school district. ACES would act as the "broker" in securing these transportation services. Several committee members expressed concerns with the final cost, which has not been determined and may not be determined before we have to commit to the program. Also, there were concerns as to our ability to "opt out" in the future, without any penalty to the district. Both Mr. Belden and Ms. Pearce indicated that those issues are being discussed and will be addressed before the final contract is consummated.

Whitson's negative balances

Michael Belden, Chief Operating Officer, introduced John Prunier, Whitson's regional manager, to speak about the "negative balances" program and to answer Committee members' questions. Mr. Prunier indicated that Hamden is doing an excellent job with managing the negative balance. The Hamden average, of approximately \$5,000, contrasts with similar-sized school districts that average \$50,000 plus. The committee members' concerns were with the "stigma" that is attached to the "default meal", a cheese sandwich. They would like to look at other options which would shift the onus from the student to the student's parent. The Committee asked the Administration to suspend the "cheese sandwich" meal policy and to look at other means to collect delinquent funds. Mr. Belden will look into this and will provide feedback to the Finance Committee as part of his monthly report.

Hamden High School band room options

Eric Nyquist, Director of Fine Arts, and Erin Barkon, high school instrumental music teacher, provided a brief Powerpoint presentation concerning the growth of the instrumental music program at the high school and the problems the program is experiencing due to lack of instructional space. Silver Petrucelli and Associates architect, John Ireland, presented an idea building a small addition onto the high school to accommodate the expanded program. The Committee members asked several questions relative to other "non-construction" options, but these did not seem to address the current shortfalls. After much discussion, the administration was directed to continue with further investigation, including determining if this expansion project would qualify for State reimbursement. There is Capital funding in place, authorized by the Legislative Council, for this investigation. Director of Facilities, Mark Albanese, will work with Mr. Nyquist to move this project forward.

FY 2016-17 Capital projects update

Director of Facilities, Mark Albanese, updated the Committee members on the status of the Capital projects. Not much has transpired since the December meeting, due, in part, to the holiday break. Mr. Albanese did report that the Ridge Hill gymnasium floor project was complete and the students are using the gym. Also, the Legislative Council approved the bid waiver for Silver Petrucelli & Associates to begin investigative work on the Ridge Hill School water infiltration problems.

ACTION ITEMS:

Move to add the following items to the agenda: "Approval of a building usage request from Hamden Democratic Town Committee to use Bear Path and Ridge Hill Schools on January 9, 2018 (snow date of January 11, 2018) for local district caucuses" to the agenda as Action Item Ve, and "Approval of ACES regional transportation draft agreement" to the agenda as Action Item Vf.

Perez-Cabello / Hul
Unanimous

- a) Move to recommend to the full Board, approval of a building usage request from the Hamden Chamber of Commerce to use the Hamden High School gymnasium on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 for a business and community expo.

Hul / Perez-Cabello
Unanimous

- b) Move to recommend to the full Board, approval of a building usage request from the Hamden Democratic Town Committee to use various buildings and rooms on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 (snow date of Thursday, January 11, 2018) for a Town Convention meeting

Mitchell / Perez-Cabello
Unanimous

- c) Move to recommend to the full Board, approval of a building usage request from Without Bounds Creative Group to use the Hamden High School gymnasium and various classrooms on Saturday, January 20, 2018 for a short film shoot.

Perez-Cabello / Hul
Unanimous

- d) Move to recommend to the full Board, approval of a building usage request from the Hamden Academy of Dance and Music to use the Hamden Middle School auditorium on Saturday, March 3, 2018 for dance lessons

Hul / Mitchell
Unanimous

- e) Move to recommend to the full Board, approval of a building usage request from the Hamden Democratic Town Committee to use Bear Path and Ridge Hill Schools on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 (snow date of Thursday, January 11, 2018) for local district caucuses

Mitchell / Perez-Cabello
Unanimous

- f) Move to recommend to the full Board, approval of the ACES regional transportation draft agreement, as presented

Perez-Cabello / Mitchell
Mitchell – Yes
Perez-Cabello – Yes
Hul – No

Motion Passes

Move to adjourn at 9:10 PM.

Perez-Cabello / Hul
Unanimous