

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL FINANCE/FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 6, 2020 @ 5:00 P.M.
REMOTE MEETING

Members Present: Jay Weitlauf, Jane Giulini, Liz Porter

Also Present: Mike Graner, Sam Kilpatrick, Susan Austin

Chairman Weitlauf called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

1. Review September 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes – The minutes were approved as presented.
2. Update re: FY22 Budget – Mike Graner explained that he met with the principals this week to orient them to the projected school site budgets for FY22. He also indicated that he, Ken Knight, and Susan Austin will meet with Jamie Giordano, Steve Wheeler, and Kathy Miner to develop the budgets for the two new elementary schools.
3. Update re: Transportation Contracts (STA and Curtin) – Mike Graner explained that the STA contract is expected to be paid in full. Sam Kilpatrick, Ken Knight, and Mike Graner met with the STA management, and they explained the need for the district to pay the full amount with deductions for limited use of gasoline. Ken and Sam met with the Curtin bus company managers, and the company indicated they would charge Groton Public Schools for only four days per week since children are not being transported on Wednesdays. Mike estimated that the full year savings from that would be approximately \$100,000.
4. CIP – FY22
 - Installation of Lights on Groton Middle School Sports Fields – Mike Graner recommended that the cost of installing lights on the synthetic surface fields and the softball field should be included in the FY22 CIP. The estimated cost for the lights for the synthetic fields is \$300,000; the estimated cost for the softball field lights is \$250,000.
 - Silver Petrucelli Recommendation re: CC, SBB, & MM – Sam Kilpatrick explained that the Silver Petrucelli architectural firm conducted a facility analysis of both Mary Morrisson and Charles Barnum schools. Sam recommended that the FY22 CIP include the estimated cost of \$900,000 for replacing the roof at Charles Barnum.
 - Northeast Academy IAQ - Next Phase – Mike Graner reviewed the multi-year CIP request regarding Northeast Academy’s air quality. The FY22 CIP originally included site work to improve the drainage system near the athletic field and playground. The estimated cost of that work is \$213,000. The CIP request also included replacement of the HVAC air handling units. Sam explained that the active dehumidification protocol that has been employed this year has largely mitigated the humidity problem. He recommended that this item be postponed until FY23.

Mike Graner explained that the town requested the FY22 CIP be submitted by Friday, October 9. Following the committee’s review, he recommended that the following three items be requested on the FY22 CIP:

- Athletic field lights (\$550,000),
- Northeast Academy site improvements (\$213,000), and
- Charles Barnum roof replacement (\$900,000).

Chairman Weitlauf recommended that the following athletic field items be included in the FY23 CIP:

- Recrowning the football field, and
 - Refurbishing the field house and track.
5. Discussion of the Three Elementary Schools Scheduled to be closed in June 2021 (CC, SBB, MM) – Mike Graner reviewed the options for the three elementary schools scheduled to be closed in June of 2021. He recommended that the Board of Education retain control of one of the buildings in case it is needed due to increased enrollment; the district also needs a school to serve as the home base for the robotics program and will require additional storage space once the Pleasant Valley A-frame is no longer available. Mike explained that S. B. Butler will require a \$900,000 roof replacement and Claude Chester needs an engineering study to confirm the structural integrity of the gym/cafeteria floor. Due to the concerns with Claude Chester and S. B. Butler, Mike recommended that Mary Morrisson be retained by the Board of Education for future use.
 6. Discussion re: Solar Panels – Sam Kilpatrick explained that the town is pursuing a Power Sharing Agreement with a local solar panel company. Mike Graner will share the details of the agreement with the Board of Education when the Town Council makes them available.
 7. Alliance Grant Building Funds (\$477,000) – Mike Graner explained that he recommended that the Alliance district building fund be allocated to the improvement of the telecommunications system at the Central Office and Charles Barnum. Dennis Colclough is currently requesting estimates for the work to install a new phone system at both locations. The application for the funds is due on October 23.
 8. Update re: Relocation of Middle School Memorials – Sam Kilpatrick has contacted the Kuhse family to determine the best location for the memorial statue; he is awaiting response from the family. Sam also reached out to the Rogers family regarding a memorial bench which he expects to be installed on the grounds at Groton Middle School.
 9. Relocation of Middle School Portables – Sam Kilpatrick reported that the portables are expected to be installed on October 7.
 10. Update re: Groton Middle School Gym Floor – Sam Kilpatrick reported that the gym floor has been installed and is being sealed; he expects the gym will be available for use by the end of October.

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.