

## BOE BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: December 8, 2021

Place: Board Room, Havemeyer Building and via Zoom

Present: Ms. Christina Downey, Chair (via Zoom)  
Mr. Joe Kelly  
Mr. Cody Kittle  
Ms. Laura Kostin  
Ms. Kathleen Stowe, prior Budget Chair, Board Chair (ex officio)  
Dr. Toni Jones, Superintendent  
Mr. Sean O'Keefe, COO

The meeting convened at 10:04 A.M.

I. Action Items

A. Approve agenda

Ms. Kostin moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kelly.

4 in favor, none opposed.

B. Approve minutes

Mr. Kelly moved to approve the 10/28/21 committee meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Downey.

2 in favor, none opposed, 2 abstained (prior committee members voted in favor and new members abstained).

Discussion Items

A. 22-23 Operating and Capital Budgets

Capital Budget Items

- Mr. Sean O'Keefe provided a detailed analysis of the cost avoidance to maintain CMS, OG and JC if the building renovations/rebuild were funded in the next 3 years
  - Ms. Downey noted very helpful to look at savings/avoidance for fully funded projects
  - Mr. Kittle questioned the estimated figure of the ongoing capital maintenance figures if the buildings were to be fully renovated/rebuilt. Administration noted they used actual figures as a guide from recent builds (e.g., New Lebanon)
- Christina Downey raised the option of accelerating CMS/Feasibility money to FY 23 rather than waiting a year for FY 24 and to consolidate A&E and Feasibility

- There was discussion about Town procedures and whether might avoid a feasibility study and go straight to Building Committee with Educational Specifications if possible
- There was discussion regarding timing of Board vote on Ed Specs for CMS before June. Dr. Jones noted quite possible since a lot of analysis from MFP with detail on square footage
- The committee noted feasibility is important to get voices other than internal staff – bring the community into the conversation
  - Ed Specifications would get community input which is important, as well as define what should be built
  - Discussion on A&E funding is a percentage of construction costs so need to determine an appropriate figure
- Noted we have recent templates for Ed Specifications for elementary schools, but have not built a middle school in years
- Discussion around fast-tracking CMS continued and putting feasibility \$ in and then asking for A&E money with a condition
- Pull forward design spending for CMS since significant savings in doing so
- Joe Kelly noted we should get buy in from BET on the logic behind doing so
- Cardinal Road Project
  - There was discussion on narrowing the scope to only the emergency road
  - The committee had questions on if it should be removed from capital request since we do not have approvals in place or a timeline for those
- Elementary School Capital Projects
  - There was discussion around if feasible to build two elementary schools at same time
    - Believed doable with distinct Building Committees working with staff
  - Locating children while projects ongoing
    - For example CMS could be rebuilt next to old building potentially
    - Do not have space in district to relocate entire building of elementary school children and community does not prefer “learning cottages” so A&E process will help make decisions about any need for dislocation, and plan the staging/timing of projects
  - Both JC and OG have issues and are infrastructurally challenged
    - Ms. Kostin noted that we have crossed a threshold from old and functional to no longer functional. Both elementary schools have different challenges, and both need to be addressed
    - Discussion around health, safety, ADA non-compliance
    - Ms. Kostin asked about pre-K applications and classrooms and the size of the program and its impact on classroom space
- Havemeyer Elevator – there was discussion about the item in terms of need, usage, priority

#### Operating Budget Items

- There was discussion about the impact of the bus contract costs on the operating budget, as bids came in higher than originally budgeted. Looking at a possible increase of 12.5% over current year (vs. 5% in draft budget), amounting to \$760K.
- Discussion about staffing in the FY 23 budget

#### Adjournment

Mr. Kelly moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Downey.

4 in favor, none opposed.

Adjourned at 11:38 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen Stowe and Christina Downey