

BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES
draft

Date: February 22, 2022

Place: Havemeyer Building, Staff Development Room

Present: Christina Downey (chair)
Joe Kelly
Cody Kittle (via telephone)
Laura Kostin (via telephone)
Dr. Toni Jones, Superintendent
Mr. Sean O'Keefe, Chief Operating Officer
Mr. Dan Watson, Director of Facilities

The meeting was called to order at 1:12 PM

Action items:

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Downey. Motion passed 4-0.

A motion to approve the minutes of the 12/8/21 meeting was made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Downey. Motion passed 4-0.

Discussion items:

CMS interim appropriations

The committee had a discussion about the need to request an interim appropriation for CMS after the engineering study requested by the Board showed a number of issues, resulting in the temporary closure of the building by the Town building inspector. In connection with that, the committee discussed three issues;

1) the need for funds to both get the building back open (which work has been done) and to perform repairs in the summer of 2022 to provide a medium-term solution until a new building can be constructed (a portion of which will require a request for an interim appropriation).

2) a request for an interim appropriation to move forward immediately with the process of creating Educational Specifications for a new CMS as soon as practicable.

3) a change in the Board's capital request in the FY 23 budget to now seek Architecture and Engineering funds to move forward with the process on an accelerated

timeline. The amount of \$2.5MM would be accelerated from FY 24 plan to FY 23 budget request (FY 23 is currently before the BET).

As part of the discussion, Mr. Watson gave the committee a detailed explanation of the issues that were raised by the building inspector, and how those were to be addressed to get the building reopened, along with what work would be done this summer to provide a longer-term solution and all the scaffolding around the building to be removed.

Mr. O'Keefe explained to the committee that there was money in the current year's budget which was utilized for most of the costs for the scaffolding, etc. needed to get the building reopened (but was not totally sufficient).

A request for an interim appropriation would ideally need to include: 1) the shortage on the "get the building open", 2) funds for the summer work to be done to allow the building to operate normally in the medium term, plus 3) funds to pay for costs to prepare Ed Specs for a new building.

Mr. O'Keefe was working on the figures for these amounts to be able to present them to the Board at the February 24, 2022 Board meeting.

The committee members asked questions about how a possible accelerated feasibility process would work, including seeking community input, costs, and timing.

ARP funds

Mr. O'Keefe confirmed the figures in the chart on the use/planned use of the ARP funds. Dr. Jones answered the committee members' questions about various expenditures, including but not limited to the GHS Student Center, math interventionists, and special education items from the PCG recommendations. She explained the focus of the expenditures has been on learning loss and student interventions.

Mr. Kelly moved to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Downey seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM