

Operations Committee Meeting

December 9, 2013

Building & Grounds Office

4:00 PM

Minutes

Committee Members Present: Dan Mannix, Superintendent of Schools
Eric Anderson, Board Member
Leonard King, Board Member
Mike Hagadorn, Board Member
Mary LaValley Blaine, School Business Executive
Dan Noonan, Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds

The Operations Committee Meeting was called to order at 4:03 PM.

Topics of discussion were as follows:

- **EXCEL Project Phase II Final Completion Update:**

Dan Noonan briefed the Operation Committee Members on the most current completion status of the EXCEL Phase II Project. Mr. Noonan stated that there were only a couple of outstanding issues remaining to be addressed relative to the project; particularly that the VFD's that control the water system booster pumps still need to be "tuned" to the operational system. He further stated that he had contacted the Plumbing Contractor (Brockway Mechanical) regarding the remaining work and that he had received assurance that the factory representative would be responding to make the final adjustments to the pump controls. There followed a short discussion regarding the project in general and an agreement among those present that the District's project Manager (Garrett Hamlin) should be contacted and briefed about the remaining work that needed to be completed prior to any final payments.

- **Update on the District's Quest for Natural Gas:**

Mr. Hagadorn initiated the discussion by questioning the status of the NYSEG Natural Gas "commitment letter". It was explained by Superintendent Mannix that it was in the hands of the School's Attorney for review.

Mr. Anderson reiterated a discussion that he had recently had with Mr. Morales (Beekmantown Town Councilman) regarding surcharges and the timeframes associated. Mr. Anderson stated that after the initial period of the installation of Natural Gas (NG) that the District would stand to gain financially utilizing NG over the cost of fuel oil.

Mr. King further stressed the importance of exploring the possibility of installing the equipment that would enable the boilers to operate on either NG or fuel oil. The idea of dual conversion was largely acknowledged by the Operations Committee as an option. Mr. King also stated that it was most likely the Cumberland Head Elementary School (CHES) would receive NG before the Main Building. He suggested that one building should be converted at a time to allow the District the ability to evaluate the project overall.

Mr. Hagadorn speculated that the District's cost of obtaining NG may be lessened if there was a public presentation made by NYSEG regarding the proposed project. He stated that the presentation may spark more interest in NG by the public and that cost of the NG pipeline may be possibly shared.

Superintendent Mannix spoke on how the Public Service Commission may be able to have an effect on the surcharges associated with obtaining NG.

Mary LaValley Blaine, School Business Executive informed the Operation Committee Members that approval from the New York State Education Department (NYSED) would be required prior to any capital project. She further stated that it would be essential to involve the District's Architects in order to complete such a proposed project.

The NG discussion concluded with a brief conversation regarding Architects and the reiteration of the District's commitment to the pursuit of NG.

- **Energy Performance Contract:**

Superintendent Mannix explained to the Operations Committee that the District had been approached by two different potential vendors (Johnson Controls & Siemens Building Technologies) that were interested in completing energy analyzes throughout the District's facilities in order to determine whether the District would qualify to participate in an Energy Performance Contract (EPC). Superintendent Mannix, along with School Business Executive Mary LaValley Blaine further explained to the Committee that the energy analyzes implied no obligations and that both vendors would be prepared to bring forward an energy saving project with a guaranteed payback in the event that the District met the qualifications of potential payback. Mrs. Blaine further explained the logistics of an ECP and also specified that such a project would require NYSED approval, as well as an Architect.

Dan Noonan explained the potential project interest and the existing Energy Management System components.

Mr. Noonan concluded the ECP discussion by informing the Committee that the vendors had been supplied with all pertinent energy usage data necessary for the ECP studies and that the vendors would be interested in making a presentation to the District of their finding upon completion.

- **Solar Power/Alternative Power:**

Mr. Hagadorn initiated the discussion on solar power by informing the Committee Members of his progress in obtaining information regarding various types of alternative energy projects. He particularly spoke of solar projects that other school districts in the state have completed and the advantages of alternative energy projects.

The Operations Committee expressed overall interest exploring alternative energy and Mr. Hagadorn conveyed to the Committee that he would continue to pursue further information pertaining to such projects that could be cost effective to the District.

- **Other Discussions:**

Superintendent Mannix mentioned the Transportation Study and predominantly spoke about the advantages of propane fueled buses. He stated there were several benefits of propane fueled buses, such as (but not limited to) lower maintenance cost, better fuel efficiency and lower environmental impact. Superintendent Mannix further stated that following the full review of the study with the Transportation Supervisor, he would bring his recommendations regarding all aspects of the study to the full Board of Education.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan Noonan, Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds