

Greenwich Board of Education Minutes of the GHS Front Entry Committee Meeting

DATE: November 22, 2023

LOCATION: GHS and Virtual via Google Meet

TIME: 8:00 am

Committee Members Present:

Stephen Walko - Chairman

Jake Allen - Vice Chairman

Maureen Bonanno-Secretary

Louis Contadino

Christina Downey (BOE)

Stephanie Cowie

Leslie Moriarty (BET)

Ashley Cole

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Craig Amundson (RTM)

Ralph Mayo (GHS Principal)

Lauren Rabin (Board of Selectmen)

Will Schwartz (DPW)

Tom Bobkowski (BOE - Central Office)

Others Present:

David Stein (Silver Petrucelli)

Mike Lampel (Wernert)

Bob Washburn (Silver Petrucelli)

Max Wernert (Wernert)

Not Present:

Dennis Yeskey (**P&Z**)

Dan Watson (BOE- Central Office)

Steven Swidler (BOE Staff)

- **Call to Order:**

- Meeting was called to order by Mr. Walko at 8:02 a.m.

- **Project Update:**

- Mr. Walko asked for an update from the GC and Mr. Lampel stated they are ahead of schedule; the structural concrete is almost done, the structural steel has been fabricated and the steel is expected to be delivered next Tuesday. He added, it will be delivered first thing in the morning and will be contained within the fence and should not disrupt anything.
- Mr. Walko noted that at our next meeting we will get a 2 week look ahead from Wernert.

- Mr. Walko asked if they were aware of any material delays and Mr. Lampel responded that they are not and added, the blast resistant glass and aluminum are on site in Norwalk and noted that they reviewed dimensions for doors and windows with the mason and the glazer.
- Mr. Contadino asked about the storage expense and Mr. Lampel responded there is no charge for storage.
- Mr. Washburn stated that the concrete was poured and they met with the Wernert during the final placements of the forms. He added, both RFI's are closed, noting one related to the interior signage and the other with coordinating the existing wall abutting the new wall and there is only one submittal open regarding the bike rack. Mr. Lampel added there is one more submittal regarding the millwork drawings for the security desk and front office.
- Mr. Contadino asked what kind of wood is being used and Mr. Lampel responded it was plastic laminated wood and he will be getting samples for review.
- Mr. Allen asked about the mechanical units and Mr. Lampel responded that was complete.
- Mr. Walko asked about the meeting with administration and they are still on schedule to do the work over Christmas break.
- Mr. Walko asked who was responsible for reviewing the materials testing invoice, and Mr. Stein responded they ensure the content of the invoice aligns with the testing report but Wernert reviews for timing, so it is a two part review and since Mr. Lampel has not reviewed the invoice, the vote will take place at the next meeting.

- **Motion to Approve Change Order #3:**

Motion was made by Ms. Moriarty and seconded by Mr. Allen to approve Change order #3 with a total amount differential of zero. The motion was approved. The Motion Passed 7-0-0.

- Mr. Walko asked what CSG's role was in getting the change orders to the state and Mr. Stein responded that CSG is the interface with the state after Silver Petrucelli prepares the documents. He will ask Mr. Giulano for his approval on the document and process.
- Mr. Lampel stated that he needs to get a signature on the change orders for his records.
- **Landscaping Update:**
 - Mr. Stein gave an update on his efforts to reduce the cost of the benches and he stated that he reached out to the vendor and is working with the landscape architect to see if they can avoid imbedding the posts of benches to reduce the cost. Mr. Stein noted that there is a variety of radius or curves to the benches that follow the profile or edge of landscaping and they are looking into whether they can do a surface mounted frame so the benches can be added any time. Mr. Stein continued, a foundation piece would still need to be added, but could be added later. Mr. Stein also stated that another option is to eliminate a portion of the benches. Mr. Stein stated the most sensible option is to modify or simplify the foundation.
 - Mr. Walko asked if that would be a change order and Mr. Stein responded that it would be a change order to alternate #2 and Mr. Walko responded that it would then cost money and asked how much it would be, assuming we get no money from donations and Mr. Stein responded the range would be \$30-50K.
 - Ms. Downey clarified that this is a change order because we are adding something that was an add alternate which is not approved yet. Mr. Walko stated that we would need to take the money from somewhere.

- Ms. Downey asked if we could go back to non custom benches and Mr. Contadino asked if Mr. Stein had a conversation with the landscape architect regarding switching to straight benches and Mr. Stein responded that non custom benches is not an option and he thought that the straight benches would be awkward and disjointed, and they are unsure if we would be saving money on the foundation, but would save money on the benches. He added, in some areas, there is not enough room so we would need to reduce the linear footage of benches.
- Mr. Walko asked for a motion to ask Wernert for a proposed change order for the foundation.
- **Motion for Change Order Request:**

Motion was made by Ms. Moriarty and seconded by Mr. Allen to ask Wernert for a proposed change order for the bench foundations.

The motion was approved. *The Motion Passed 7-0-0.*

- **Discussion on Existing Concrete Benches:**
 - Mr. Lambert noted that he would like to get the existing benches off site if they won't be used, in order to make more room on site work.
 - Mr. Walko noted there are 3 scenarios; (1) zero funds for benches (2) some funds for benches and (3) funds for all benches. Mr. Walko continued, in the 3rd scenario, we could dispose of the existing benches and if we have no money for benches he asked if we could use the existing benches at all and Mr. Stein responded that it would be unlikely as they wouldn't fit properly however, there may be one small area to use two.
 - Ms. Bonanno asked Mr. Mayo if there was anyplace else around the school or at other schools to move the existing benches to.
 - Mr. Allen asked if we could use the benches in the interim and Mr. Wernert expressed his concern with moving the benches multiple times.
 - Mr. Wernert asked if the red tables could be used temporarily and Mr. Walko responded those could be used.
 - Mr. Walko asked if Mr. Stein could get back to the committee on his recommendation
- **Update on Brick Fundraiser Campaign:**
 - Mr. Walko stated that we received approval from all parties to move forward to do the brick fundraiser.
 - Ms. Cowie stated that the campaign has begun and is being run through the GHS PTA and the communications are going out through the PTA, Mr. Mayo's email to parents Ms. Foster's emails from Student Activities, Dr. Jones's weekly newsletter, the First Selectman's communication, PTAC's newsletter and to the PTA's of the feeder schools and we will go out to the press after Thanksgiving.
 - Ms. Cowie continued, we have currently sold 56 bricks for a total of \$16,800 and the campaign will run through 12/22 or until the bricks are sold.
 - Ms. Cowie will forward a communication to the committee and asked members to share and she will pass out flyers at the Thanksgiving GHS football game.
 - Mr. Walko asked if there was an alumni email list and Ms. Cowie responded there was not and Ms. Rabin noted that there are some good Facebook alumni groups that may be helpful.
 - Ms. Cowie stated that we are trying to raise \$150K and we are aiming to sell 500 bricks and noted that the bricks are fabricated in a lot, and they sell in 500 increments.
 - Mr. Contadino asked about including a time capsule during construction.

- **Motion to Approve Invoice:**

Motion was made by Mr. Allen and seconded by Ms. Moriarty to approve the Silver Petrucelli invoice #23-1399 in the amount of \$5,336. The motion was approved. *The Motion Passed 7-0-0.*

- **Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes:**

Motion was made by Ms. Moriarty and seconded by Mr. Allen to approve the November 8th meeting minutes as amended. The motion was approved. *The Motion Passed 7-0-0.*

- **Adjourn:**

- The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Walko at 8:50 am

Submitted by Maureen Bonanno on December 4th, 2023