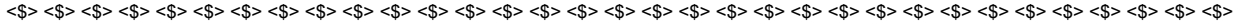


BUDGET / FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

**Monday, October 21, 2019
Mt. Hope High School - Cafeteria**



Present

Subcommittee: Brian Bradshaw, Chairperson; John Bento, Sheila Ellsworth (absent)

School Committee, Administration and Staff: Victor Cabral, Marjorie McBride, Erin Schofield (arrived 7:11pm), John Saviano, Jonathan Brice, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent; Raquel Pellerin, Director of Finance & Operations and George Simmons, Facilities Director; Rose Muller, Technology Director

Brian Bradshaw called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: J. Bento made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2019 meeting. Seconded by B. Bradshaw.

The motion passed unanimously.

FACILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY FOCUS - Updates/Discussion

A. Facilities Update: Necessity of Construction Discussion

G. Simmons reviewed and explained progress on the project. Facilities report was provided.

G. Simmons reviewed and explained progress.

Many Architects have an Educational Consultant (EC) onboard, as a subcontractor to the Architects, who pays them for their service. Whereas if we had our own EC, he would work with us and be part of our plan.

J. Bento inquired on cost of the EC for master plan.

R. Pellerin explain the process and that the District received \$150,000 grant towards the project.

The Building Committee will meet before December 2019.

B. Bradshaw read through the 2020 completions.

G. Simmons explained the status of completed 2019 projects.

B. Technology Refresh Discussion

Dr. Brice and R. Muller, Technology Director, discussed Chromebooks.

R. Muller explained how the Chromebooks are quickly in and out of warranty.

R. Muller discussed the Student-to-Chrombook ratio according to grade level.

R. Muller made a recommendation to keep Chromebooks for 3 years and refresh in the 4th year; the plan is to present Freshman with a new Chromebook for the rest of high school.

In May 2022, the Chromebooks will be out of warranty and IT will no longer be able to maintain them. No patches or updates will be provided any longer.

Dr. Brice- Asked about the advantages of Purchase vs. Lease the Technology?

Dr. Brice- Spoke to the advantages of Chromebook Technology usage over Textbook.

Dr. Brice- Wants to keep technology available to BW students for that competitive advantage.

B. Bradshaw thanked Rose and Diana for their hard work.

Discussion ensued.

No action taken this meeting for Technologies.

BUDGET FOCUS - Updates/Discussion

FY19 Audit Status

B. Bradshaw deferred to R. Pellerin for presentation/information.

Audit field work is going to start in October/November Timeframe.

Discussion ensued

FY20 Current Budget Status

Dr. Brice- spoke to the Administration taking positions in the schools, out on the playground and helping in other matters to help keep substitute hiring spending down. We are also using personnel already in the building and assured that the District is operating as lean as it possibly can.

Dr. Brice- Every requisition is being looked at thoroughly.

Dr. Brice- Some students have a level of need that exceeds our staff capability and we bring in the necessary services.

Dr. Brice- the next meeting, administration will show all the cost containment and efficiencies that have been incorporated.

Dr. Brice- pointed out that employees and health care is an ever increasing financial obligation.

Brian B- inquired is there a way to look at previous years to forecast forward to upcoming financial responsibilities.

Student Activity Funds Discussion

Going to Defer to another meeting.

Discussion ensued.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Recommend to the Full School Committee Approval of Necessity of Construction Amendments

MOTION: A motion was made by John Bento to approve the final amendments to the Necessity of Construction Amendments, seconded by Brian Bradshaw.
The motion passed unanimously.

2. Recommend to the Full School Committee Approval of the disposal of Social Studies texts and materials

MOTION: A motion was made by J. Bento to approval of the disposal of Social Studies texts and materials, seconded by B. Bradshaw.
The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion:

Diane S. stated that Liza Olsen, Secretary Hugh Cole, has been boxing up old books and materials and now ask the School Committee for permission to dispose of these items. Two store rooms and a classroom have been cleaned out and can now be utilized for better use.

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Recommend to the Full School Committee Approval of purchases of \$5,000

MOTION: A motion was made by J. Bento to approve Approval of purchases of \$5,000, seconded by B. Bradshaw.
The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion:

B. Bradshaw wanted to know how do we gauge the effectiveness of this new material to know if this purchase is going to accomplish helping the students to move successfully to grade 3.

Dr. Brice- Director of Literacy recommended the purchase of reading material for grade 1 & 2.

Giving great teachers, strong literacy material will help increase student success.
The schools progress monitoring at the beginning and end of the school year.

D. Sanna added that the same Guided Reading kits were purchased last year and teachers found them extremely helpful. These are for grades K-2 to supplement the number of kits at Hugh Cole due to the increased number of teachers.

Recommendation passes unanimously

SUBCOMMITTEE COMMENTS

Next meeting November 18, 2019 at 6:30 at MHHS Cafeteria

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: There being no further business to discuss, a Motion was made at 7:45 PM by John Bento to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Brian Bradshaw.
The motion passed unanimously.

/kn