

GATEWAY REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES****WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2013****Gateway Library
7:00 P.M.****(A PORTION OF THIS MEETING MAY BE HELD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION)****I. OPENING OF MEETING**BLANDFORDCHESTER
Shirley WinerHUNTINGTON
Ron DamonMIDDLEFIELD
Sarah FoleyMONTGOMERY
Anne Marie Buikus
Sandra HaasRUSSELL
Ruth KennedyWORTHINGTON
Sue LevreaultSECRETARY
Stacy StewartCENTRAL ADMINISTRATION
Dr. David B. Hopson, Superintendent
Stephanie Fisk, Business & FinanceADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

OTHERS: _____

7:35 p.m. II. SOLAR ENERGY PRESENTATIONS**A. Broadway**

- Eric Weiss gave an overview of the process. He also explained there is a 3rd option. Gateway could green up their energy without putting panels on the roof.
- Jeff from Broadway is a Mechanical engineer. Broadway handles everything from design to construction.
- Mrs. Winer asked what EPC stands for.
- Jeff said Engineering Procurement and Construction.
- Jeff said today Duval Patrick signed a bill that increases the net metering cap.
- Examples of projects: Medway, Logan airport, Alpha Granger, Turkey Hill Middle School, Tantasqua, Norwell Middle school, both towns of Lee and Lenox, Cape.
- A screen will be donated for science education. Students will be able to monitor what is happening on the roof.
- Mrs. Kennedy asked for an explanation of the credits.
- Jeff said you can either build solar plants or buy energy credits. If you are in the grid, you have to buy x amount of credits. Credits are about 2.10 per kilowatt hour and carbon credits are about 3cents per kilowatt hour.
- The solar power purchase agreement has a 20 year term. The system will last a very long time and they suggest buying it in the end. They do all the work, energy metering, billing and maintenance. The system is web operated, so they will know there is a problem before we do. Price stability for 20 years, being good citizens, teaching students.
- Jeff will email this to the school so we have the presentation. Financing is through Rockland Capital. About 354 kilowatts on this building and almost 125 on Littleville.
- Mrs. Kennedy asked how many of the panel manufacturers are in the country?
- Jeff said about 3 of the 10.
- Sarnafil says nothing goes on the roof or it ruins the warranty. Panel claw says they work with Sarnafil and yes panels can be put on the roof without voiding the warranty.

- Mrs. Kennedy asked if the mounting was sealed to prevent ice, snow, etc. getting underneath.
- Jeff said the biggest concern is wind speed and snow, but there won't be any problems.
- A crew will be sent out to inspect the roof, then they install the panels and after installation it reinspected inspected again. Current rate is .10906 per kilowatt hour. Gateway's cost is .0813 kilowatt per hour. Numbers being shown today are better than originally shown. First year savings \$18,146 up to \$43,101. Total 20 year savings of \$589,204. They will guarantee the amount. If they can't they will pay the district. It is going to go up 9/10ths of a penny in 20 years.
- Mrs. Winer said over the 20 years, the panels aren't as efficient.
- Jeff said that is correct, but they will keep going.
- The system's performance shows all kinds of education information, such as how many trees we've saved. It will generate a report card showing how the system runs. They will donate the software to the school.
- The school will be required to sign a twenty year contract. It will have the amount the district will pay and that amount will be less than they are paying now.
- Mrs. Winer asked what keeps the company in the game.
- Jeff said they also make money from the savings, investment tax credit, and SREC tax credit.
- Mr. Wing asked about the age of our roofs, the sections of roof replacement.
- Jeff said there will be a table in the ppc.
- Mr. Wing said the the roof would have to be done.
- Eric said all people who have worked with Broadway have had all positive things to say.
- Mrs. Kennedy asked if they could take a bus trip and see roof panels.
- Jeff said he could talk to Tantasqua.

B. Emeresco

- Scott Backer from Ameresco said they are based out of Framingham. They are a power development company.
- Solar applications: Newburyport, Waltham, Fall River, Lowell, Natick, Milton academy.
- Solar PV topics for K-12 that help develop a curriculum based on solar energy using our output.
- Mrs. Levreault said a community member could look to see what the solar panels at gateway are doing.
- Scott said yes.
- There will be external access to the roof for when school is in session. They provide maintenance and monitor the system.
- Roof condition and maintaining roof condition - Work with roof manufacturer, set up pre roof inspection prior to construction and once construction is complete they will re-inspect the roof to uphold the warranty.
- They will finance the project 100%. They have completed 100% of the projects awarded to them.
- Property tax is not included in the contract.
- Gateway complex is 300kilowatts and 207 at Littleville. The angle will be a10 degree tilt on panels. First year cost savings is \$16,450 and \$332,700 for total 20 year savings.
- After June 15, there will be changes in solar power regarding PPA pricing. Gave a list of deadlines. June 15 is PPA signed and interconnection application filed.
- Mrs. Kennedy asked what happens at end of 20 years. If we buy it can we contract you to maintain it?
- Jeff said at the end, it would be fair market value to buy or we could extend it. Gateway could buy it and still have us maintain it.
- Mr. Wing asked what would happen in the event we have to replace sections of the roof. It was assumed we would replace the whole roof.
- Jeff said they could do it either way, but he doesn't know the cost.
- Scott showed a diagram where the panels would be position on the roof.
- They have an estimate of \$350,000 to remove the panels to replace to roof. The district would be required to give them a certain amount of notice. The price would be included in our capital budget. It could be done section by section.
- Ms. Fisk said there is an estimated savings of \$332,700 but it will cost \$350, 000 to remove the panels, that eats our savings.
- Scott said yes, but here could be an increase in power of more than 2.5% per year.
- PV system removal prior to year 11 of the contract term requires GRSD to make payments for SREC revenue.
- The higher the pitch the more presser it puts on the roof.
- Eric asked what if the school only wants to put panels on one roof.
- Scott said the system would not produce as much.

- Mr. Wing asked why this is a good idea for our district with the savings and the cost to take the panels off to replace the roof.
- Scott said it is fixing the electricity costs for 20 years. Fixes cost of power. Everything is going up in costs.
- Mrs. Foley said sales tax and property tax is not included.
- Scott said sales tax is excluded on solar.
- Eric said if it was a ground mount system, property tax would be more relevant.
- Mrs. Kennedy asked where is our savings we would be spending about the same as it would cost of to take the panels off the roof.
- Scott said the ideal time to put a system in is when the roof is new or newly replaced but if electricity rates skyrocket it could be a huge savings.
- The roofs are in very good condition if you could go past the warranty time on the roof, there would be no need to take the panels off for roof replacement.
- Mrs. Levreault asked if there are any statistics on whether the solar panels extend the life of the roof.
- Scott said no, the incentive market for roof panels is pretty new.

C. Solar Net Metering – Eric Weiss

- Eric said there are two parts to an electric bill – supply and distribution – two agreements that would need to be signed. A twenty year agreement and the partnership with Nexamp to get a monetary credit. Would move from real time to fixed time or something in between.
- There would be a 21% fixed discount off of net metering credits received on school bills. There would be a 0.0575 kilowatt floor and the current net metering is 0.092 kilowatts. The term is 20 years. WMEC sets the net metering credit rate.
- If you decided to go with net metering the total savings would be \$31,761.
- They could do both projects.
- Mr. Wing asked if HCOG could also have something available educationally for the kids
- Eric said yes, they can do that as well.
- Mrs. Levreault asked who is who is building the array.
- Eric said Nexamp. They are giving Allard farm something similar to what you've heard tonight. They are setting them high enough so the land is usable.
- Mrs. Levreault asked if this is something that can be expanded. How many people are part of the array.
- Eric said they are looking for customers.
- Ms. Fisk besides the electricity what is the down side.
- Eric said you get the 21% no matter what the rate is. Are there any other associated costs.
- Eric said no.
- Ron what if we didn't put it on the middle school roof, but the rest.
- Shirley said Ameresco wasn't promising as much.
- Brian thinks it was very risky for Ameresco to put an amount on the removal of panels. How do we address having the panels stored on the property while the roof is being done.
- Mrs. Levreault asked if there is a deadline for Hadley.
- Eric said only the state changes, but Hadley is first come first serve. SREC has gone from 10 years to 8 years and the governor has increased increase the net metering cap.
- Mrs. Winer said if we go with panels it should be on Littleville. We should net meter the high/middle school complex.
- Dr. Hopson said the companies will be more willing to work with us once we are more committed. Is there one company you are more comfortable with? What Mrs. Leverault is saying is to get a cost for Littleville and the net metering.
- Eric said the first step is to have a preference,
- Dave next week we will have a quorum and the members here can give their input and we can decide which company to move forward with.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT-Mrs. Winer made a motion seconded by Mr. Damon to adjourn at 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Stacy L Stewart
 School Committee Secretary