

February 1, 2010
Paul Rodrigues Administration Building
455 County Street
Room 224
New Bedford, MA

MINUTES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FACILITIES, MAINTENANCE AND
SCHOOL BUILDING

PRESENT: JACK NOBREGA, JILL USSACH, MARLENE POLLOCK

ABSENT: NONE

Also in attendance was Dr. Portia Bonner, Superintendent

The meeting convened at 6:30 pm.

The Committee reviewed facilities work orders from October, November and December.

A motion was made by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Ms. Ussach to approve the facilities report.

Ms. Ussach gave an update on the construction of the new Lincoln Elementary School. She stated that we are on time and on budget.

The Committee then discussed the McCoy Field Project. Mr. Oliveira stated that the field project has been closed down for winter conditions. He also informed them that the rebid for the Warren Doane Field House was back out to bid. The sub bids were opened on January 14 and the tentative opening of the general bid is February 12 at 11:00 am.

Ms. Pollock questioned why the project was being rebid.

Mr. Oliveira stated that the bids from the previous attempt had expired.

Next on the agenda was south end school construction. Dr. Bonner updated the Committee on the proposed Taylor School at Sea Lab and the new Hannigan School on the present site. The City Council is holding up funding for questions in the Committee on Finance. Dr. Bonner informed the Sub Committee that MSBA has approved the District moving forward with the new Hannigan starting at 80% reimbursement. She stated there are three options for south end construction. They are a) add to the Sea Lab Building and build a new Hannigan b) one building for 600 students, c) two new 300 student buildings (what the parents want as a result of November 2008 community meetings).

Mr. Nobrega asked if constructing a new Hannigan would affect Gomes School. The answer is yes as Kindergartens would be moving back into the new Hannigan.

Ms. Ussach stated she would like to see the Sea Lab building stay as an independent school. She also asked about the Sea Lab usage after Hannigan is built new.

Dr. Bonner stated that 4th and 5th grade classes would do field trips to the building.

The next item of business before the Sub Committee was the future use of Ottiwell and Phillips Avenue Schools once the new Lincoln Elementary School comes on line. Discussion ensued of moving current school programs for Adult Education and Pregnant and Parenting Teens from the city building on Hillman Street into the Ottiwell School.

Marlene Pollock asked what would happen to the Phillips Avenue School.

Mr. Oliveira stated that as part of the 2001 school feasibility study, Phillips Avenue is scheduled to be closed and be surplus to the City of New Bedford for their usage.

Voted unanimously on a Motion by Jill Ussach and seconded by Marlene Pollock to vote to reallocate the use of the Ottiwell School for Adult Education and PPT this fall.

Voted unanimously on a Motion by Marlene Pollock and seconded by Jill Ussach to surplus Phillips Avenue School to the City at the appropriate time.

Two parents of students at the Ottiwell School then addressed the Sub Committee. Michael Clapp and Paul Collard addressed the Committee about the naming of the new school. They presented a petition for the schools name change suggestions including possibly naming the school after Ted Kennedy, also suggested was the Hope School. Parents and staff approached Dr. Bonner with concerns about merging the three buildings and the possibility of changing the name. Mr. Collard thought it was not fair to call it Lincoln School. Mr. Oliveira offered the friendly amendment of naming the community room after Sarah D. Ottiwell. The Chairman then suggested moving the discussion to the full board for the naming of the new school.

The Committee reviewed the excess property reports for October, November and December.

Voted unanimously on a Motion by Marlene Pollock and seconded by Jill Ussach to approve and declare surplus the excess property.

There being no further business, the Committee voted to adjourn on a motion by Jill Ussach and seconded by Marlene Pollock.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lawrence W. Oliveira
Chief Administrator for Finance & Operations
Subcommittee Liaison