

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FAIRFIELD, CT

**Standing Committee Meeting
Facilities, Technology, and Long-Term Planning**

Friday, December 18, 2009
Fairfield Public Schools
Superintendent's Conference Room
501 Kings Highway East
4:30 p.m.

DRAFT Minutes

- I. The meeting was called to order at 4:39 p.m.
- II. Committee Members Present: Board of Education Members—Mr. Tim Kery, Mr. John Mitola, Mr. Perry Liu; Director of Operations, Tom Cullen, and Director of Elementary Education, Anna Cutaia-Leonard. Others present: Sue Brand, Board of Education Chairperson; Al Kelly, Jim Gallagher and LaryKochman (by speaker phone) (Stratfield Building Committee); Chris DeWitt (Board of Finance); and Sal Morabito (Central Office).
- III. Mr. Kery explained the purpose of the meeting. He expressed his concern and said that he wanted to discuss the mechanical and technical short-term issues, as well as procedural issues. He requested that the Stratfield Building Committee to move up the process of new boiler replacements and ask Al Kelly to speak to the issue.

Mr. Kelly said that he thought one boiler should be replaced as soon as possible, but the other one would have to wait. The boiler spec had gone out Monday and the documents would have to be rebid. The replacement boiler would be for steam but would need repiping for hot water later. It is a different boiler than originally picked.

Mr. Kery suggested that the Stratfield Building Committee (SBC) handle the bid, and Mr. Cullen and Mr. Morabito handle the boiler replacement. Mr. Mitola inquired about who would pay for the replacement. Mr. Kelly said it should be bonded. He will present this information to the SBC. It would involve moving up the asbestos removal and piping to over the break and will mean sealing the room twice. It will also result in a change order for the SBC. The removal will be done in pieces as will the installation.

The question of reimbursement was raised. Mr. Morabito said that it is eligible for reimbursement as part of the building project but not reimbursable as a maintenance project through the Board of Education.

After much discussion about timing, logistics, legal issues, and possible risks to the town, the building, and the education program, the idea of trying to get state reimbursement of about \$9,000 (Mr. Kery's estimate) was abandoned for an expedited multi-pronged approach.

Mr. Cullen said he had already made inquiries about alternatives. The boiler in question had a crack and hole that could not be patched but instead the section needed to be replaced. It would cost \$18,000 for the replaced section and another \$2,000 for abatement, and could be done in about ten days.

Mr. Cullen had also spoken to the state and noted that they were very understanding and cooperative. State approval would be required in order to move forward the boiler replacement if we were seeking reimbursement. Mr. Kelly then pressed for doing something without involving Silver/Petrucelli architects and that state. SBC could treat it as a boiler replacement and the BOE could pay for the materials. It could be replaced sometime in January or in February at the latest. There was probably not enough time to go back to the Board of Finance for a bid waiver.

Another alternative suggested by Mr. Cullen was to rent a boiler on a trailer. It would take about five days to get it on location and up and running. The cost was about \$16,000 - \$28,000 and it would need to be rented for the heating season. Tom said that there is a BOE maintenance account with \$34,000 left in it for maintenance emergencies and the money would need to be transferred.

Mr. Kelly would like to see at least three bids for the new boiler. The next SBC meeting is scheduled for January 5, 2010. Mr. Kelly gave Mr. Cullen a list of companies to be contacted. An ad could be placed inviting companies to bid. Mr. Cullen suggested dealing with Controlled Air, Johnson or Tucker. Discussion also included having the First Selectman and Purchasing Agent advise about waiving the bid process.

The group agreed by consensus to pursue all options: replacing the section on the boiler, obtaining a boiler on a trailer, and ordering a new boiler. Mr. Cullen and Mr. Morabito were given the authority to obtain as much information as possible about cost and timing to make it all happen.

- V. The next meeting will be held on January 12 at 5:15 p.m.
- VI. Meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.