

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

MINUTES OF THE FACILITIES COMMITTEE OF THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION, held July 30, 2019, at Bridgeport City Hall, 45 Lyon Terrace, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 6:13 p.m.

Committee members present were Chair Hernan Illingworth, Maria Pereira and Sybil Allen.

Ms. Allen moved approval of the minutes of the May 7th, 2019, meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pereira. A correction was noted. The motion was approved by a 2-0 vote. Voting in favor were members Illingworth and Allen. Ms. Pereira abstained.

The next agenda item was discussion and possible action on license agreement with Beachside of Connecticut for the use of the facilities at Harding High School.

Mickey Kydes of Beachside Soccer was present.

Ms. Pereira noted the document provided indicated 2015 was the last time an annual report of the company was filed with the state.

Ms. Pereira said it looked they had 30 students from Westport, 25 from Fairfield, 25 from Stamford-Norwalk, and 15 from Bridgeport. Mr. Kydes said information was provided on financial aid and an expert opinion on turf durability.

Mr. Kydes said the participation fees are between \$3,000 and \$3,500. He said for next year \$95,000 in tuition aid has

been committed. He said there is additional aid for travel expenses and the same formula is used for both tuition and travel. He said since 2000 about \$800,000 in aid has been given. He said there was a fundraising campaign as well to fund the financial aid. He added the aid was based on the parents' 1040s and is like the college-aid formula.

In response to a question, Mr. Kydes said everyone who receives financial aid has to make some financial commitment. He said for next year about 30 percent of the clientele will be receiving financial aid.

Mr. Kydes said ever since the program expanded to Bridgeport enrollment from the city has increased. He said he believed all Bridgeport kids in the program have received aid and the kids from Stamford and Bridgeport make up most of the financial aid. He said he could provide the total aid and the average amount to Bridgeport players.

In response to a question, Mr. Kydes said the program is for males except for juniors (age 4 to 11). The juniors program costs \$900 for a year and is held in New Canaan and Stamford. He said he would like to offer that program in the future in Bridgeport.

In response to a question, Mr. Kydes said women's soccer was very popular in the U.S., but not so much internationally.

Sal Hanaif, Bassick soccer coach, said in Bridgeport participation in girls' soccer is suffering. Mr. Kydes said at the youth level girls' soccer is far more profitable than it is for boys. He said Beachside's mission is to compete at the highest level. He said there were travel programs in Westport available for \$1,200, which are not elite like Beachside. He said the players in his program are seen by

40 international scouts, every MLS team, and every youth national team, but it is expensive because it is for the best of the best. He said players have to try out to be admitted into the club.,

Mr. Kydes said the program was nationally recognized and was being assessed by a world organization soon.

Mr. Illingworth suggested moving the matter to the full board with a proposed agreement.

There was a discussion of the costs of renting the field. Alan Wallack noted the expenses of security guards and custodians. Mr. Kydes said in other cities Beachside paid to rent the field, but did not pay custodians or security guards. He said if those costs were added on Beachside would be unable to proceed. He added that at other sites the payment is for a site director. He said the costs being cited exceed what it costs to rent a field in Manhattan.

Ms. Pereira noted contracts with unions require the employees get paid for a minimum of four hours.

There was further discussion on the costs.

Mr. Hanaif suggested coming up with a number to make this work.

Ms. Pereira said the board had to at least cover its costs for an outside program.

Mr. Kydes suggested the board provide him with an amount it needs it per hour and Beachside will say yes or no.

There was a discussion of safety in the Harding area. Mr.

Kydes said he went to school in Fort Greene, Brooklyn.

There was a discussion of Beachside providing a portable toilet to reduce costs.

Mr. Illingworth suggested moving the item to the full board to have Beachside work with the administration to hammer out fees and present a proposed agreement. Mr. Kydes said he would make an offer that the board would have the option of taking or rejecting

In response to a question, Mr. Kydes said he had no problem naming the board as an additional insured under its policy.

Mr. Kydes said he has an arrangement with the University of Bridgeport for bulk rentals and the payment is made whether the field is used or not. He said he was willing work on different scenarios for the rental.

Mr. Wallack said the board was not going to get rich off the contract.

Mr. Hanaif urged the board find a way to make this work.

Mr. Kydes said if we become partners there are many contacts that can save the district money.

There was a discussion on whether the funds generated should go into Harding or the district as a whole.

Mr. Illingworth moved *"to authorize the acting superintendent to enter into a negotiation agreement with Beachside of Connecticut Soccer Club."* The motion was seconded by Ms. Allen and unanimously approved.

In response to a question, Mr. Wallack said he would support the request for the use of the field before the full board.

Ms. Allen moved the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pereira and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod

*Approved by the committee on October 7, 2019.*