

Monday, February 1, 2021

MINUTES OF THE FACILITIES COMMITTEE OF THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION, held February 1, 2021, held by video conference call, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

Committee members present were Chair John Weldon, Joseph Sokolovic, and Albert Benejan.

Superintendent Michael J. Testani was present.

The first agenda item was discussion of an installation of an outdoor basketball court at Black Rock School.

Principal Steven Cassidy said it involved a collaboration with Full Court Peace and he was excited about this after seeing similar work at three other schools in Bridgeport. He said this would create exercise opportunities for students and options for physical education teachers at the school. He said the school is very diverse and this would present more opportunities for students to do things together.

Mr. Weldon noted a lot of material had been forwarded to the committee in advance.

Supt. Testani said the new courts at the other three schools had seen a great amount of usage and would likely do the same for the Black Rock community. Mr. Weldon noted the land where the court would be built was vacant and this would be a great use for it.

Mr. Sokolovic thanked Full Court Peace for helping out the

community. He noted the proposal indicates there will be no cost to the city, but it should read no cost to the board. He added that any naming would have to go through a naming committee or have the board suspend the rules to do so. Mr. Weldon said he believed since it was part of a school the current rules would apply.

Mr. Benejan thanked Mr. Cassidy.

In response to a question, the superintendent said the same process would be used as in the other schools, which should cover permitting and formalities on the city side. Mike Evans of Full Court Peace said the cost of the project is about \$70,000, with the biggest expense being converting grass to asphalt.

Mr. Sokolovic moved *“to refer this to the full board for their consideration and a recommendation for approval.”* The motion was seconded by Mr. Benejan.

In response to a question, Mr. Cassidy said Mr. Hammond and Mr. Wallack had signed off on the proposal.

The superintendent said he would like to hook Mr. Evans up with the Over-Under group, led by Kyle Martino, that did a project at Batalla School and to explore incorporating that into this project. Mr. Evans said he would start that conversation and mentioned some connections he had to Mr. Martino

Mr. Evans said he was also looking at Bryant School as a candidate for a new court and said he would look at a problem of slipperiness at the Blackham court.

The motion was unanimously approved.

The superintendent said Mr. Hammond was not available to give a facilities report tonight because of snow removal activities this evening.

Supt. Testani said he had a meeting with Mr. Hammond to coordinate about being more proactive regarding facilities issues. He said the final coordination with the contractor has taken place to work on the air handler at Fairchild Wheeler, which previously created potential issues with the district's servers.

The superintendent said there was an issue with discoloration of water at Read School, and remote learning was instituted for a week to make sure the water was safe. A complete water tank removal and replacement was done. All the valves will be replaced in June when school gets out.

The superintendent said a major tree was taken care of at Hallen School in cooperation with the city. Other tree work was done at Marin School, as well as fence issues at Columbus School. Lighting issues outside schools have also been addressed.

In response to a question, Supt. Testani said the parks department has worked on some of the bigger cleanliness issues on school grounds. He said the custodial staff has to do walk-throughs to identify issues that need to be addressed, which had not been the case in some locations.

In response to a question, the superintendent said the custodians had enough equipment to clear snow around the schools, but the city has the remainder of the responsibility. He said he spoke to Mr. Hammond about the status of clearing out snow, with the major work in parking lots to

begin tomorrow morning. He said he would also personally look at schools to make sure the schools can be open on Wednesday.

Mr. Sokolovic moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Benejan and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod

Approved by the committee on March 1, 2021