

Monday, March 1, 2021

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m.

Committee members present were Chair John Weldon, Joseph Sokolovic, and Albert Benejan. Board member Sybil Allen was present.

Superintendent Michael J. Testani was present.

Mr. Sokolovic moved to approve the committee's minutes of February 1, 2021. The motion was seconded by Mr. Benejan and unanimously approved.

The next agenda item was a review of facilities maintenance activities related to COVID-19.

Supt. Testani said the year began with removing furniture and nonessential items from classrooms in order to space children out for the reopening. He said over two million masks were purchased, along with almost a hundred thousand packages of wipes, as well as sanitizing bottles and stations. Plexiglass was also installed.

The superintendent said when there were reported Covid cases there was extensive cleaning of classrooms and buildings. He said it has been an enormous task.

Supt. Testani said some towns have increased in-person learning prior to vaccination based on CDC guidelines. He said because class numbers and class sizes are larger than

suburban towns it's not possible to bring back all the students at this time without protecting the staff first.

Alan Wallack said the situation was an opportunity to remove a lot of the clutter from classrooms. Jorge Garcia said even though numbers are going down we do want people to get complacent. He said he would meet tomorrow with the entire trades staff and on Wednesday with the head custodians. He said PPE is distributed to custodians within 24 to 48 hours when requested.

Robert Hammond said it was a challenging year for everybody and it was a collective effort to implement the necessary measures. He said the custodial staff did a tremendous job.

In response to a question, Mr. Hammond said one of the items removed from a classroom was a sofa.

In response to a question, Supt. Testani said the facilities department will oversee turning water faucets back on that were turned off. Where possible, water fountains will be replaced with water fill stations, where plastic bottles can be refilled.

Mr. Weldon noted it was Mr. Garcia's first day on the job. Mr. Garcia said the team functioned very well together during the pandemic and it creates an opportunity to look ahead to future plans. Mr. Hammond said all requests for supplies by custodians are fulfilled when they are made.

Mr. Garcia said the goal is to have a management team member in every single school in the district every week, including in the evenings. This will allow the team to get a better idea of what's going on in the field. He said a calendar

of training and certification will be established.

The superintendent said he believed even post-pandemic there would be a period of extensive sanitizing and the use of masks. He said funding has been put aside to keep replenishing supplies.

There was a discussion of ventilation. Mr. Garcia said there is a calendar for filter changes. He said there was a meeting this morning on HVAC in general and there will ultimately be a complete audit of all the HVAC systems in order to have shovel-ready projects for available Covid dollars or grants.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod

*Approved by the committee on May 3, 2021*