

Thursday, September 3, 2020

MINUTES OF THE FACILITIES COMMITTEE OF THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION, held September 3, 2020, at Bridgeport Regional Vocational Aquaculture School and video call, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m.

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

Superintendent Michael J. Testani was present.

Mr. Benejan moved approval of the minutes of the meeting of July 23, 2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. Illingworth and unanimously approved.

Robert Hammond provided a facilities report. He said all PPE was distributed to schools and sanitizer dispensers have been installed, including in individual classrooms. He said cleaning of buildings continues throughout, including landscaping. He said the effort continues to fill vacancies in the department.

Mr. Benejan said parents will still be scared about their children's health.

In response to a question, Mr., Hammond said masks will be distributed as needed from the principal's office.

Mr. Illingworth thanked Mr. Hammond and the staff for their hard work and efforts to get the schools ready. Mr. Benejan

thanked Mr. Hammond for taking care of the elevator at Bassick.

The superintendent provided a security report. He said he met yesterday with Lt. Grech. X-ray machines have been installed at all high schools for the first day of school, so bags will not have to be handled by security staff. The security staff has received new uniforms; Supt. Testani described the uniforms as more welcoming to students and families.

Supt. Testani said some new sub guards are being hired.

In response to questions, Supt. Testani said there are no metal detectors in elementary/middle schools. He said the X-ray devices will speed up entry into high schools. The arrival time of high school teachers has been adjusted to allow students into the building as they arrive.

The superintendent said students will be encouraged through their day to keep their masks on. If they refuse to wear them, they will be referred to the principal. Face coverings must be worn on the bus and on campuses. He said positive feedback had been received from parochial and charter schools that have opened up this week in the city.

In response to a question, the superintendent said parents who did not make an election for their children had their children placed in remote learning.

In response to a question, Supt. Testani said security officers have been provided with face shields which can be worn with masks.

The next agenda item was on alterations to Dunbar School.

Alan Wallack said the project has been completed and we are applying for reimbursement to the state.

Mr. Benejan moved “*to refer alterations and repair of the roof at Dunbar School to the full board for approval.*” The motion was seconded by Ms. Allen and unanimously approved.

The next item was on addition and alterations to Black Rock School, state project number 015-0172EA. Mr. Wallack said the completed has been completed and we are applying for reimbursement to the state.

Mr. Benejan moved “*to approve and refer to the full board for approval.*” The motion was seconded by Ms. Allen and unanimously approved.

The next agenda item was on code compliance alterations to Columbus School, state project 015-0164EA. Mr. Wallack said this has been completed for asbestos removal and ADA accessibility and we are applying for reimbursement to the state.

Ms. Allen moved “*to approve and refer to the full board for approval.*” The motion was seconded by Mr. Benejan and unanimously approved.

The next item was on a memorial bench in honor of Patricia Lopez, a teacher at the Aerospace School at Fairchild Wheeler. Principal Jay Lapp said Ms. Lopez, a second-year Teach for America teacher, passed away last spring. Teach for America purchased a bench as a memorial for placement below where her classroom was. There is no cost to the board.

In response to a question, Mr. Wallack said the facilities

department had no objection to the proposal.

*approval.*” The motion was seconded by Mr. Benejan and unanimously approved.

The next agenda item was on the basketball court repair at Curiale School. Principal Brett Gustafson said a snowplow accidently knocked down a basketball hoop at the school about a year and a half ago. He said an organization, Full Court Peace, was contacted and they offered to replace the hoop at their expense.

Mr. Wallack said the facilities department had no objection.

Mike Evans of Full Court Peace said he would like to repair Barnum School’s hoops as well.

Mr. Benejan moved “*to refer this to the full board for approval.*” The motion was seconded by Mr. Illingworth.

Mr. Benejan moved to amend the motion “*to add Barnum School as well.*” The amendment was seconded by Ms. Allen and unanimously approved.

The motion as amended was unanimously approved.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod

*Approved by the committee on October 5, 2020*