

Middletown Public Schools -Board of Education

BOE Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes

October 21, 20 at 5:30 PM

The meeting was held over Zoom and streamed in YouTube. Chairwoman Deborah Cain called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM.

Present: Deborah Cain (Chairperson), Peter Staye, Sean King, Marco Gaylord, Superintendent Michael Conner, recording secretary Leslie Spatola and Ray Linehan from MPS IT department.

I. Introductions

II. Review of the September 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Cain made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and this was approved.

III. New Woodrow Wilson Middle School Update/Status Report

Mr. Staye informed the Committee that the work is on schedule and there has been no delays receiving materials. There also has been no covid19 infections on site which is good since there are approximately 154 tradespersons working in the building. Mechanical equipment (boilers, chillers, etc.) has been received and installed and we are hoping to have the building exterior weather tight by the second week of November. Installation of the temporary heating system is underway.

Steel for the library floor (library relocated to allow construction of the Innovation Lab) will be on site the first week of November. O&G and their sub-contractors have made several suggestions in ways to reduce the cost of the Innovation Lab/library and a final cost will be presented to the building committee at its October 26, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Gaylord mentioned that the FF&E (furniture, fixtures and equipment) package has been finalized for desks and chairs that will be used in classrooms. Ms. DeJesus will be involved in the selection of exercise equipment for the fitness space. Existing fitness equipment will remain in the Woodrow building to become part of the community center.

IV. Status of School Lighting Project

Mr. Staye advised the committee that MPS is eligible for a \$1 million state "Alliance" grant that lists energy conservation projects, including lighting upgrades, as eligible activities. So, lighting replacement at Wesley, Snow, Lawrence, Bielefield, Moody and Farm Hill schools will be part of that application. MacDonough and Spencer are not eligible as their status as an operating school cannot be assured. Other work that will also be included would be replacing the playground at Snow, playground drainage system improvements and new convection oven in the kitchens at the Bielefield School and Lawrence, new blackout window shades in lower level at the Farm Hill School and replacing the register stands at the Middletown High School cafeteria.

“Alternate” projects, including the replacement of café tables at Wesley School, will also be included in the event a project is ineligible.

Mr. Staye presented “Current Project Workload 2020” spreadsheet and summarized the work that has been going on now and where the funds are coming from to pay for them. There is \$2.4M worth of work into Middletown High School, Bielefield, Farm Hill, Lawrence, Moody, Wesley and Snow schools. Funding included the 20/21 Capital Non-Recurring allocation, various grants, and operating funds.

Mr. King asked about the possibility that a school would close in 20 years and Dr. Conner agreed that is a very difficult thing to predict and determine what the condition of a school would be that far into the future.

Mr. Staye proceeded to explain the “Projects Completed’ spreadsheet. The highlighted areas meant the jobs were completed and the other color tells from where the funding came from. Some of the funds were assigned to the IT Department but under \$500,000 was spent from Capitol money along with funds from grants. Projects # 174 and #175 on the chart were paid by Covid19 reimbursements. The project going forward for 2021-2022 will be on a Capitol plan but not sure at this time how large the CNR allocation will be for next year. Mr. Gaylord thought that \$3M+ should be requested and to revised the Capitol plan based on what did not get done this year so that nothing is lost.

V. Traffic/Drop Off Issue at Spencer School

There has been a solution to the traffic drop off issue at the school and the problem has improved.

VI. Status of Indoor Air Monitoring at Wesley School

Mr. Staye informed the committee that flooring (carpets) in six classrooms have been replaced and the teachers seem happy with the work that was done because they felt it was the carpeting that was the actual problem. Wesley Principal Tom Cannata had good reports on the work that had been done recently.

VII. Miscellaneous

Chairperson Deborah Cain asked about the status of filling custodial vacancies and was told they had the first interview today for the position at the Wesley School. More interviews will follow after the posting period for the remaining positions expire. There has been progress made at a reliable pace and there are 4 temporary custodians in various schools at the present time.

The facilities department HVAC technician recently retired and will go through the posting process and City Hall and should be out soon. Chairperson Cain inquired as to the cleanliness issues at schools and Mr. Gaylord replied saying that everything is thoroughly cleaned and sanitized but at times there may be an issue when a custodian calls out for the day however, the sanitizing is always done on a strict schedule.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM by Chairperson Cain and seconded by Mr. King.

The next Board of Education Facilities Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 5:30 PM.

Minutes recorded by Leslie A. Spatola,

Leslie A. Spatola

Facilities Committee Secretary