



FACILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 23, 2015
Chatfield-LoPresti School
Conference Room
7:45 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Saundra Gesek
Fred Stanek
Yashu Putorti

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jay Hatfield

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Richard Belden, Assistant Superintendent
Pat Boyle, Board Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Mr. Putorti called the meeting to order at 7:43 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance

II. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Snow Removal

Mr. Belden brought forth a proposal on behalf of Mr. Natzel who was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Mr. Natzel would like to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the 2015-16 school year for hiring a third party contractor for the snow removal on school property. (i.e., parking lots, sidewalks, entrance ways) The town currently does the schools last, after all other town roads and lots are cleared. Then our custodians are responsible for the clearing of the sidewalks. By hiring a third party contractor it is probable that we would be able to have fewer cancellation / late opening days due to the lots and sidewalks being cleared faster. It would also make the schools a priority. The town and school district currently incur overtime costs by custodians and public works employees that could be eliminated. The third party contractor would be responsible for making any necessary repairs if they damaged the curbs or parking lots. Mr. Stanek wanted to make sure the trucks employed by the contractor would be of sufficient size to do the job, such as the high school driveway. Mr. Belden assured him that they were full sized dump trucks. Ms. Gesek asked if other school districts were doing this. Mr. Belden said he knew that Middlebury-Southbury currently had a third party contractor. The committee gave permission for Mr. Belden and Mr. Natzel to pursue this option.

B. High School Driveway Sign

Mr. Stanek was concerned that the lights for the sign at the entrance to Seymour High School were not functioning. He says it makes it difficult for people from other towns to find the high school. Also, the sign instills pride in the school. Mr. Belden felt that the power to the light had been capped. Mr. Belden stated that once the snow cleared he would look at uncapping the light and seeing if it is possible to make it vandal-proof.

C. Middle School Entrance Tiles

Mr. Natzel fixed the tiles in the entrance way of the middle school. The tiles throughout the building are starting to lift. The tiles were put down with glue that had a ten year life span and we are now in year fifteen. The current tile colors are no longer available. Mr. Belden would like to look at making the replacing of the tiles into a multi-year project in future budgets.

D. High School Turf Project

Mr. Belden said the Turf Committee meets twice a month and has approved Nafis and Young as the engineering design contractor for this project. They were the contractor that did the original field so some of the preliminary work is already done. The goal is to have the field and bleachers available for football and soccer in late Fall, 2015. For the work to be completed by the given timeframe work would need to be started in the spring; this may have an impact on high school graduation. Options for graduation were discussed including moving the graduation off site or renting bleachers and using one of the other fields. It was decided that graduation should be outdoors at Seymour High School if at all possible. Mr. Belden said when the project was completed the field and bleachers would all be handicap accessible and meet the Office of Civil Rights compliance requests. Mr. Belden also stated the only remaining items that would need to be addressed were the resurfacing of the track and the press box. The underneath section of the track is in good shape so we would only need to resurface. Cost would be \$130,000 - \$300,000. The Turf Committee is in the process of picking the type of turf to implement. The infill that has been selected is the best infill to prevent concussions, which was given the highest priority. The project will be closely monitored.

E. Policy #7551- Review and Possible Action

Mr. Stanek stated that he doesn't think it is the Board of Education's right to name fields or buildings only a school facility area such as a library. There are two ways that the committee becomes involved with naming a facility area in memory or honor of someone. 1.) A group comes to the committee and requests someone be honored. 2.) The committee suggests the naming of an area. In either case the consensus of opinion was that there should be some criteria in regards to the selection process when honoring someone. Mr. Putorti felt the more specific the criteria the easier it would be to narrow the selection process. Mr. Stanek felt we could become too specific, that there should be a framework but not too specific. Everyone felt that preferential treatment should be given to long time residents of Seymour and long time educators. It was agreed that Mr. Putorti would try to add criteria to Policy #7551; he will then forward it to Ms. Gesek and Mr. Stanek for revision. It will then be returned to this committee for discussion.

III. **REPORTS**

A. Chairman's Report

None

B. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Belden asked to be allowed to speak on behalf of a few ongoing projects. The energy saving lighting program at the middle school is in its last phase. Equipment was being installed to lower the power factor, thereby lowering the electric bill substantially. DDC controls have been installed at Bungay Elementary and it is projected to save 10-20% on the oil bill there. Mr. Belden indicated that both the Town and BOE were looking into solar panels and fuel cells. Ms. Gesek asked about the high school softball lighting project. Mr. Belden stated that there was a recent meeting with Ken Pereiras, Chris Adamo, and State Representative Theresa Conroy. Mrs. Conroy is in the process of trying to obtain state funding in the amount of \$265,000. If she is successful in obtaining the funding the lighting project would expand to include a new infield, press box, flagpole, and fencing. Ms. Gesek then inquired on where we stood on the issue of the heated sidewalks at Chatfield-LoPresti school which are not working. Mr. Belden said Town Counsel is looking at our rights in relationship to existing warranties. The lawyer will let us know if there is any recourse as far as the contractor is concerned.

IV. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: (Ms. Gesek/sec., Mr. Stanek) to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Gesek, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Putorti

SO VOTED

Submitted by:
Pat Boyle