



FINANCE & FACILITIES MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday September 8, 2020

Committee Members: Ray Egbert, Chair
Laura Simon, Carol Hample, Tom Wallace

Administrative Staff: Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent
Jason Bohm, SBA/Board Secretary
Don Race, Facilities Manager

1. 2020-2021 Capital Projects

- a. The Committee received an update for the TBS boiler project. Mr. Finkle from SSP Architects along with a special engineer identified a more cost-effective way to tie the boilers to our existing electrical panels. The engineer identified 4+ distributors that have the materials needed in stock, and those supplies have been received. Laborers have been back on-site for flue and piping work. We were able to obtain more specific information on the cause of the wrong boilers being delivered. As a result, Unitemp is moving forward with a more cost-effective way to tie in boilers suggested by SSP Architects with materials in-stock at no charge to the district. Therefore, change order number 1 will not be required to be executed. Unitemp is confident in TBS having heat before October 15.
- b. The HBS roof project is substantially complete. The remaining work entails punch list items which should be completed this week.
- c. The application for the Securing Our Children's Future Bond Act grant is postponed by the State indefinitely. The State has not sold bonds that would allow for the grant funds.
- d. The LED lighting project at WHS and TBS is completed.
- e. Other maintenance and IT summer projects have been substantially completed per the priority list. The Digital display and POTS installation have been delayed due to the necessary work to have Chromebooks ready for virtual learning. The emergency walkway work for the RMS 500 wing has been postponed due to additional work to have the schools ready for hybrid learning. The TBS entrance doors have been delivered and awaiting installation.

2. RMS Well / E. Coli – Update

The District is proceeding with the 4-log UV filtration system as approved by the committee. Mr. Bohm is continuing to work with the County Office in hopes of proceeding as an emergency contract (as opposed to an emergent project which requires Commissioner Approval) in hopes of expediting. We cannot proceed with any work until we have approval. Despite this project technically requiring a bid as greater than \$44,000, we are obtaining two formal quotes from contractors in case we are approved to proceed with an emergency contract. Emergency contracts waive the bid requirement. The District has 120 days from July 13 to complete all remediation per NJDEP mandate, however the intent is to complete the project sooner.

3. Reopening

- a. There are currently 69 students receiving school lunches during virtual learning. These lunches are delivered to the student's home.
- b. The Committee discussed the option of discounting the preschool tuition. The Committee agreed to a 25% tuition reduction. Most surrounding districts are providing tuition discounts.
- c. The Committee was agreeable to providing the staff a YMCA discount at a daily rate of \$10 to provide staff an additional option for childcare.

4. Budget Update

- a. Mr. Bohm provided an update for potential COVID 19 funding from the Digital Divide grant and FEMA. The funds are becoming increasingly difficult to receive which could be a detriment to the District's budget.
- b. A list of additional costs related to COVID 19 was presented to the Committee. The additional costs currently amount to approximately \$93,000. Mr. Bohm continues to monitor this list and most of the items were not budgeted. The largest unknown amount that could be a concern is costs related to long term substitutes needed to fulfill staff accommodations.
- c. There was no further change in the District's State Aid funding amount. However, the State has delayed the September payment until October.
- d. Legislation / COVID 19 impact
 - i. There have been no new related laws since the last meeting, but the following are still in effect.
 - ii. Bill S2676/A4389 could mandate a fully insured health benefits tax. The cost to the District would be approximately \$140,000. There could possibly be no effect to the District if parts of the Affordable Health Care Act expire in December 2020.
 - iii. The new Health Benefit Bill becomes effective January 1, 2021. Open enrollment will be in October 2020.
 - iv. The 180-day Law is still in effect and thus the bill list is being closely monitored for approvals.
 - v. Non-teaching staff can now go through arbitration on issues if they choose.

5. 2019-2020 Audit

- a. There are no concerns with the preliminary results. The reserve formulas will allow the District to replenish reserve accounts as a result of various cost savings.

6. Finance Agenda Items

The Finance agenda items are normal in nature other than the RMS well emergency contract and SSP Architects resolution. The Committee is recommending approval for all.

7. Bills List

The Bills List are normal in nature.

8. Next meeting is planned for October 7, 2020.