

**Marple Newtown School District  
Facilities/Transportation Committee Meeting  
Tuesday August 11, 2009  
Gauntlet Center-Board Meeting Minutes**

**PRESENT:** Committee: Mr. Michael Molinaro, Mr. Richard Sokorai,  
Mrs. Nancy Galbraith, Mr. David McGinley

Board: Mrs. Dana Kauffman, Dr. Jeff Shapiro

Administration: Dr. Merle Horowitz, Mr. Joe Driscoll, Mr. Mike Dumin

Press: 0

Audience: 7

- I. Meeting Called to order by Mr. Michael Molinaro @ 7:55 pm**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Approval of the Minutes from June 2009**
  - A. Mr. Mike Dumin stated the minutes from the June 2009 meeting were unavailable. He will have them for the next facilities meeting on September 8, 2009. Motion waved until next meeting.
- IV. Approval of Present Agenda Items.**
  - A. No additions were made to the current agenda. Mr. Molinaro made the motion to approve the current agenda. Motion passed.
- V. Informational/Discussion Items – Facilities**
  - A. Mr. Don Bonnet gave the MNHS project update. Mr. Bonnet stated the project is out for bid, and that the bids will be received on September 1, 2009. Mr. Bonnet spoke of the Pennsylvania Department of Education PlanCon process. He stated the issue with the process is the Buy Back of Reimbursement from the 2000 MNHS renovation. He stated the reimbursements are based on 20 years in between projects and ours is less than 10 years ago. He stated the PA. Dept. of Education offered an alternative plan to be able, after 10 years, to seek reimbursement for this project in it's entirety without refunding any of the old reimbursement from the year 2000 project.

Mr. Bonnet stated that after a conference call with the PA Dept of Education to begin discussions concerning the buyback program, he felt very discouraged. The PA Dept. of Education once again contacted Mr. Bonnet and a meeting took place at the MNHS on July 29, 2009. After the meeting, there was a tour, by the PA Dept. of Education, through the entire high school. This tour helped change the focus on the project and their willingness to consider the buy back program issue.

Mr. Bonnet stated at the end of the July 29, 2009 meeting, the PA Dept. Of Education presented another option. That option being to wait to receive bids for the current project until after May 25, 2010 to be able to potentially gain the opportunity to keep all the reimbursement from the MNHS 2000 project and gain reimbursement and keep the entire subsidy for the current project. Mr. Bonnet went on to discuss the pros and cons of this option. He stated he will pass on the financial information to the administration as soon as he receives it from the Pa. Dept of Education. He should have more answers on these subjects in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Dave McGinley stated under no circumstances does he want to wait on this project. He reiterated he wants the shovels in the ground by September or October.

Mr. Richard Sokoria stated we should hear every option.

Mrs. Dana Kaufmann asked if it was possible to split the project in two pieces, with doing the addition first and the remaining could come after May 25, 2009.

Mr. Bonnet explained that an addition only project starts the twenty year clock again.

Mr. McGinley again stated we should not wait on this project

Mr. Damion Spahr then spoke of an article from a trade magazine titled 'Bids Fall to the Bottom.' He spoke of the single prime and how it changes by project. He then reviewed how contractors bid for different jobs. He stated based on the above article that the construction volume of work being awarded is on an up kick.

Mr. Molinaro thanked both gentlemen for the update.

Mr. Mike Dumin stated he would need a special meeting at the next facilities meeting, on September 8, 2009, to accept the recommendation of the bids.

Mr. McGinley asked Mr. Bonnet if Newtown Township was standing by their agreement to reduce all permit fees by half. Mr. Bonnet stated he would let him know within the week.

**B. Mid County Senior Services moving from the Gauntlet Center**

Mr. Dumin stated he amended their lease so they could move out of the Gauntlet Center on October 30, 2009 with notice given. He stated the rent was \$1,250.00 per month with approximately another \$200.00 in custodial costs.

**C. Delaware County Christian School request to use the MNHS Stadium September 6, 2009**

Motion moved to full Board for consideration.

**D. Gauntlet Center Projects.**

Mr. Dumin discussed taking bids for the steam pipe in the courtyard. He stated he will have a recommendation at the next faculties meeting, but he has received a few estimates and they are coming in anywhere between \$25,000 to \$180,000. He stated to band-aid the problem would be taking the risk of not having heat at the Gauntlet Center.

The brick fascia is in need of repair outside above the Court entrance. It is in need of repair and that we do not have a mason on staff.

Mr. Dumin spoke of the replacement of one of the Boilers, which must go out to bid considering the first estimate he received was for \$17,500. He also stated it's a shot in the dark, but we may be eligible for reimbursements because the Boilers are insured.

Mr. McGinley asked what this building (Gauntlet) cost per month and what would it cost to relocate the administration. Mr. Dumin did not have the monthly numbers but will have them for the next meeting.

**E. The Administration Request Board Approval to dispose of the Office Trailer located at the bus garage.**

Mr. Dumin stated he would put the trailer up for closed auction. If no one purchased the trailer, he would be able to dispose of it.

**VI. Information/Discussion Items – Transportation**

Mr. Dumin stated he hired a new doctor for the bus drivers. This doctor is \$20.00 more per employee than the previous doctor, but still less expensive than other doctors they reviewed.

**VII. Other Business:**

Mr. Dumin spoke of the roof project at Paxon Hollow Middle School. He stated the contractor is trying to get the project completed by the start of school but the weather and many days of rain has delayed the job.

Mr. Dumin gave a brief update on the MEI project, He stated the IT department has done a great job, and that training will begin soon.

**VIII. Public Comment: None**

**IX. Summary of Items moved to Regular Board Meeting**

**X. Meeting adjourned by Mr. Molinaro @ 9:25 pm**