

Marple Newtown School District
Facilities and Transportation Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 19, 2010
Board Room Minutes

PRESENT: Full Board

Administration: Dr. Merle Horowitz, Mr. Michael Dumin, Mr. Joseph Driscoll, Mr. Lance Freeman

Audience: 17
Press: 0

Mr. Sokorai called the meeting to order at 7:20PM

Mr. Sokorai asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 2010 meeting. The motion was made by Mrs. Chandless, seconded by Mr. McGinley.

Information Items:

Update of High School baseball field:

Mr. Jim Balk explained that they were one day away from completing the sod in November. The sodding process using will knit quickly. Instead of using 3' strips using 6' rolls. They have not been able to get the truck on the field because of the weather. Once the truck is able to get on the field, it will take 3 to 4 hours to get sod on the field. Within one week the field will be playable. The dirt has been taken out; at one point there was 2.5 feet of Diamond Tex. The advantage of Diamond Tex is that it can be reused. Pitching mound made out of major league clay. Backstop is down and will be putting up a 20' high straight fence.

There were some concerns raised by the board regarding the practice schedule, foul balls going into neighbor's houses. Further concerns were the post still being in the ground and fencing.

Mr. Reardon explained that the practices can take place; the game schedule has been changed. Mr. Balk continued that the post will be removed once the trucks get on the field and there will be no problem with the fencing.

Another concern was Title 9. There will be dugouts for the boys but not for the girls. We cannot say that the field is being done with private donations and for this year there will be no dugouts.

The board requested that Mr. Balk continue to work with Mr. Dumin and Mr. Reardon and thanked him for his time.

High School Renovation:

Mr. Sullivan & Mr. Spar explained that the payment percentage is 5% complete. Schedule, we lost 22 days because of weather. The contractor has requested a time extension. We have not conceded to that request. We are in the process of talking with the contractor. We don't agree with the 22 days since the district only lost 3 days. We are discussing time and how to put the project back on schedule. Don't want to go into too much here because we are negotiating the time. They continued to explain that on March 22nd steel in the band/classroom area will be started. There was a problem with a pipe found in the sub grade, the walls are back filled. We are in good shape in that area. Theatre dressing room addition foundation walls are up. Cafeteria problems with the snow, have moved the cooling tower, pad removed, back filled, fuel tanks can now be moved, preparing the rat slap. We will be here for three years, there will be times we are behind and we will find ways to get back on schedule with no cost to the district. There are a whole lot of ways to catch up.

Mr. Dumin: Bottom line in what you are saying is that it is going to cost us some money just to keep us on schedule because of the delay of the HVAC contractor, next month you will come back with current numbers all being negotiated.

Damion will be in touch with Anna Deacon regarding updating the neighbors.

Gauntlett Center

Mr. Dumin explained that last month we asked what it would cost to use section "A" along with idea for another structure for some support services. If that would work how we would fit and what some of the cost were. Pete has worked hard on this and has some answers. This is only a block diagram.

Mr. Medica gave a brief description of the conference room and board room, they would be shared space. First floor would hold facilities, main lobby, mailroom, tech/data center and personnel office. 2nd floor would hold curriculum, business office, transportation office, support services and warehousing. Mr. Spar explained that space "A" is the right idea because we all know we have several challenges. Building new is Act 34 problem and more costly than retro fitting into "A"

A discussion continued regarding building new or renovating the existing building. Cost factors for both. What is the actual square footage needed for each person rather than the entire building.

After a lengthy discussion it was suggested that a work session be held. To walk through the building, measure the areas and give opinions.

There was further discussion that the square footage is grossed up by 15%. That the floor plan was cleared and the rooms were laid out.

Thank you gentlemen.

Recommendation for motion to publicly advertise and accept bid for asbestos abatement at the High School

Mr. Dumin: Need to get specs out.

Mr. Lee explained that our current phone system is 7 years old. We looked into two different scenarios, outsourcing and VOIP. VOIP is the most flexible. The work can be done in house, would be run voice/data over computers. We would not have to have two separate cables. At the end of the project there would be a reduction of \$18,000. annually. School districts will be mandated to have software that electronically reports and audits emergency calls, what location, where in the building, what key administrators need to be contacted. Total cost \$324,000.

Mr. Driscoll explained that we wanted to look at 3 or 4 years out. This saves us from coming to the board saying that we need a new phone system and not having the funds at that time. The cost savings has a payback in 4 years. The downside would be the elementary schools. We are trying to fund the project with what we have. We wanted you to have an understanding of this when we presented this to the board.

Mr. Sokorai ~ Use of the High School Auditorium by a Dance Studio requesting a discount. The letter not available at this time.

Adjournment 9:15PM