

Colonial School District
District Operations
Facilities Management/Transportation Committee
Meeting Minutes
3/30/2012

Committee Chair Bernie Brady called the meeting to order at 7:34 AM.

Other Committee Members Present: Sue Moore, Kathy Oxberry, Julie Knudsen, Mel Brodsky

Other Board Members Present:

Also Attending: Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Superintendent; Terry R. Yemm, Director of Operations; Ms. Linda Doll, Community Resident

Public Comment on the Agenda: None

The committee reviewed a proposal for a reduction in costs from the district's transportation contractor. The proposal is the result of a meeting that took place in February. At that time the district asked the transportation contractor for consideration in price reduction based upon the current economic climate. The contractor is proposing to forgo 1 percentage point of the CPI increase they are entitled to in exchange for an additional one-year term at the end of the contract. While the district is appreciative of their efforts another meeting will be scheduled to explore additional savings. Further updates will be presented to the committee as they become available.

The committee was also informed about another cost savings initiative being explored by the Transportation Department. The initiative involves the consolidation of bus stops. There are currently 996 bus stops district wide. It is estimated that each bus stop costs the district \$75 per year. Several other districts moved forward with this initiative and were able to reduce their amount of stops by approximately 20% to 30%. In addition to the cost savings resulting from the reduction of stops, there is an opportunity for cost savings resulting from the time saved with the reduction of stops. In some cases one single bus can perform two separate runs rather than one single run as a result of the savings in time. This initiative needs further exploration and additional information will be provided to the committee at a later date.

An update was provided to the committee on the natural gas conversion project. The advertisement time period for the project will start on March 30th. A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for April 5th and the bid opening date is April 18th. The bids will be presented to the committee for review at the May committee meeting. If all goes according to plan a recommendation for contract award will be provided to the School Board for consideration at the May School Board meeting.

A plan to convert room 126 at CMS to a multipurpose classroom was discussed by the committee. Room 126 was designed as, and has been used as, the planetarium. The planetarium has been closed for several years and in its current condition is not a safe environment for students. The existing equipment and center platform will be removed and the walls at the entrance doors will be demolished. The work will start in the spring and the plan is to have the new multipurpose classroom ready for use for the start of school in September. All work will be performed by the district's maintenance staff. After a brief discussion, all committee members agreed to move forward with this plan.

Information regarding a leak in the main water supply line at Whitemarsh Elementary was provided to the Committee. Over the last two years there have been three separate repairs required for the water main. The first leak was in 2010, the other two leaks occurred in January of this year. The location of the current leak has yet to be determined. The determination of the location of the leak and the repairs will be completed during the spring break. If the leak is in the same area of the previous three leaks a decision will be made on replacing the entire section of the water main. The Committee will be provided with an update in May.

The committee reviewed an agreement with Chestnut Hill College regarding the reimbursement of 50% of the costs for the installation of the athletic field lights and a portion of the costs for the construction of the comfort station on Victory Fields. The total reimbursement is approximately \$225,000. The payments will be made on a monthly basis and will be paid retroactive to September 2011. The final payment will be made in August of 2017. This payment is in addition to the reimbursement being made for the synthetic turf installation on Victory Field #1.

A picture of the tennis courts was provided for committee review. The picture shows a crack in the playing surface that runs parallel with the nets running east to west. The crack occurred several years after the installation of the courts. The crack acts as a natural control joint allowing for movement caused by expansion and contraction. The location of the crack does not present any tripping or safety hazard as it is approximately 1 foot away from the net. Repairs will be made to the crack this summer with a material that will continue to allow it to expand and contract. Overall the tennis courts are in relatively good condition and it should be several years before a complete recoating will be needed.

Updates were provided on several revenue generating initiatives. The grab and go set up at CMS is still continuing to generate approximately \$100 per day. Based on the success of this initiative the possibility of installing a grab and go set up at CES is being explored by the Food Service Department. In addition to increased revenue, the students will be able to move through the line more quickly with this type of setup. The grab and go set up at CES will be in place prior to the start of school in September. The cost for parking permits and parking tickets at PWHS will be increased for the start of school in September. The cost for parking permits will increase from \$10-\$25 and the cost for parking tickets will increase from \$5-\$10. If a student drives more than one vehicle and requires multiple stickers for each car the cost will be \$5 per additional vehicle.

A report was provided to the committee regarding potential safety concerns with the traffic for morning drop-off at PWHS. The traffic flow is monitored by cameras and on two or three separate occasions the Safety Officer and Director of Operations have monitored the situation as well. While there is a substantial amount of traffic in the morning it was determined that there is no significant safety concern as the traffic flows relatively well. It was noted that several parents dropped off their students in areas that have signs indicating that the location is not a student drop-off location. However, the dropping off the students did not create a safety problem. The Security Department will continue to monitor the situation and provide information to parents regarding the proper location for student drop-off.

A meeting is scheduled during the spring break to finalize the application process for the permit for the electronic sign for PWHS. Once the permit is issued the sign can be ordered and the anticipated installation date is late spring early summer.

Additional Public Comment on the Agenda: None.

There being no further business before the committee, Mr. Brady adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:38 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry R. Yemm
Director of Operations