

Colonial School District
District Operations
Facilities Management/Transportation Committee
Meeting Minutes
2/8/2010

Committee Member Sue Moore called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM.

Other Committee Members Present: Bernie Brady, Alan Tabachnick

Other Board Members Present: Gary Johnson, Kathy Oxberry

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

Public Comment on the Agenda: None

Ms. Doll asked for a status report on the McCarthy Park detention basin project. The contractor has constructed the entrance to the site at the Facilities Management Center and staged the project with equipment. The contractor reported that he is waiting on some additional information from the Township engineer before beginning construction on the basin. The original plan was to have the first phase of work completed by March or April and then complete the final grading and seeding this summer. Due to delays the first phase may not be completed until May or June. Ms. Doll also expressed concern about the Victory Fields lighting project. The Committee listened to her concerns and indicated that they understood her position.

The VersaTrans GPS system has been installed in the First Student buses. The system is online and in use by members of the Transportation Department. The Transportation Department will try to coordinate a demonstration of the new system for the Committee at a future meeting. Additionally, the VersaTrans program is being upgraded to include the ability to allow parents to log onto the system to obtain their children's bus stop information in August. One of the goals of the use of the implementation of this process, in an effort to save costs, was to eliminate some of the paperwork that has traditionally been used as a method of providing bus stop information to parents. However, upon review, it was determined that the Transportation Department will still have to provide this information via paperwork as there may be many parents that do not have computers, do not use computers or may not have the opportunity to utilize a computer to obtain the information. It was felt that the labor costs involved with trying to determine who may fit this category may be more costly than the amount that may be saved by eliminating notification by paperwork.

The Committee reviewed the current list of bond fund projects. Based upon a review of the current list the Committee asked that consideration be given to potential renovations at the CMS planetarium and the recently acquired farmhouse on the Angus tract. Accordingly, the list will be revised to accommodate the request.

Mr. Yemm presented information regarding the installation of solar panels at the Colonial Middle School. The District is in receipt of a proposal from an energy company that would provide the capital required for the installation of the solar panels. All electricity produced by the panels would be utilized for the schools electric needs. The District would then pay the energy company for all electricity used. The rate for the electricity would be pre-determined and at a reduced rate in comparison to the rates charged by the local utility companies. The District, having a pre-determined rate for electricity, will be in a better position to control the annual budget process for utility costs not being affected by fluctuations in the costs created by deregulation of the industry. In addition to the cost savings, the project is environmentally friendly as there are no pollutants emitted to the atmosphere with the production of the electricity with the solar panels.

In addition to the solar panel project the Committee reviewed information regarding the installation of desiccant cooling in the east wing at the Plymouth Whitmarsh High School. Included in the proposed project is the installation of micro-turbine engines that would produce electricity and heating for the school and the replacement of the curtain wall of the east wing. The entire project is a major step in the ongoing energy management plan for the District. As is the case with the solar project the District is entertaining proposals from energy companies to fund the project. The Committee expressed an interest in pursuing both the solar and desiccant projects. Additional and more comprehensive information will be provided at the winter retreat for Committee consideration.

Mr. Yemm provided an update on information previously provided to the Committee on a program designed to test the radon levels in our schools. Several years ago our School District made the decision to partner with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with a program called "Tools for Schools." The "Tools for Schools" program provides our District with information, guidelines and specific recommendations regarding indoor air quality. During the month of December the testing procedure was completed in all K-3 schools. The results of the testing process will be provided to the Committee once received from the EPA.

The Committee agreed to a request to dispose of the old CITV van. The old van is a 1983 Ford E-350 and is no longer needed by the District. A re-built engine and transmission was installed in the vehicle in 1996. The vehicle is not in good condition and is in need of mechanical repairs. The Committee agreed to allow the Facilities Management Department to sell the vehicle to the highest bidder via use of an approved bidding process.

The Facilities Management Department is continuing to remove the old televisions from the K-3 schools. All televisions were removed from the Plymouth Elementary School in

the end of December and the televisions were removed from the Ridge Park Elementary School by the end of January. This same process will continue at the Conshohocken and Whitemarsh Elementary Schools once the removal process is completed at Ridge Park. As is the case with all of the televisions removed from our schools and approved by the School Board, the old equipment will be donated to outside groups. Mr. Yemm told the Committee that it is becoming increasingly more difficult to dispose of the old televisions. The Committee agreed that the donations can be made as required in an effort to avoid disposal charges. The Facilities Management Department will make every effort to try to find local entities that will accept the televisions as is.

Mr. Yemm provided an update on the approval process for the proposed installation of the athletic field lighting planned for Victory Fields. On Wednesday June 3, 2009, the Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB) of Whitemarsh Township voted in favor of our request for a special exception to the zoning ordinance to allow the installation of athletic field lighting on Victory Fields #1 and #3. Based on testimony presented at the hearing and the request for conditions by the BOS, the ZHB did recommend that certain conditions be included with the recommendation. The most significant condition was the request for the installation of a permanent restroom facility for the Victory Fields complex. Accordingly, the District will now move forward with attempting to obtain the necessary approvals and permits to install the lights. An application for land development was submitted to Whitemarsh Township in late July. The District appeared in front of the Whitemarsh Township Planning Commission (WTPC) in early October. The WTPC reviewed the project and did not make any recommendation requesting that the District consider alternate locations for a proposed comfort station. An alternate location was reviewed by the Committee. The District will move forward with the approval process and attempt to get on the agenda of the WTPC as soon as possible.

Additional Public Comment on the Agenda: None.

There being no further business before the committee, Mr. Brady adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:42 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry R. Yemm
Director of Operations