



Finance & Operations Committee

February 7, 2022 (Rescheduled from February 3, 2022)

MINUTES

Meeting called to order by Committee Chair: Kehoe 5:01 p.m.

Board of Education members present: Kehoe, Christenson (Brooks-absent)

District staff present: Merritt, Piesz, Kling, Gruszczynski, Welch, Jory

Citizen Representatives present: Roderique **Other Citizen(s):** none

Presenting: Brian Gesaman, Kevin Ingle, and Bill McCarthy from McCarthy & Smith; Derek Dinkeloo and Keri Seeney from TMP; Todd Fleming from ABM

Public Comments - none.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2022 - approved.

Custodial Staffing Update – Ms. Piesz introduces Todd Fleming, to discuss the staffing update for custodial. The total working FTE is 84.5 as of today. The background and drug test processes take place before fingerprinting. The fingerprinting process only takes a few days. About 90% of the candidates who make it to the fingerprinting stage are hired. ABM is currently working on streamlining their recruiting process to attract and hire more candidates.

Mr. Welch explains to the committee that there are two ABM people assigned to each high school, so they do not have cleaning assistants. ABM is expecting five new staff by the 18th, and possibly another 5 by the 25th of February. Mr. Kehoe feels the current application process is inefficient because it involves candidates having to complete so many tasks and several visits prior to being hired. The onboarding process needs to be streamlined. There is a pilot going on down south, and the complete new recruitment program will be rolled out at the end of February.

Bid Package HS-2 Award Recommendations– Mr. Gesaman showed a PowerPoint presentation that includes a recap, estimates for masonry and steel, an estimate of comparison to bid, options, and timelines. The recap mentions that, as a result of the meetings with the stakeholder group, the district increased the square footage of the Natatorium, which increased the budget by \$500K. The location change of the addition resulted in added cost for student parking lot changes, which added an additional \$400K. The amended budget became \$14.2M. Mr. Gesaman has brought a bid summary spreadsheet that has been expanded to show all bid divisions, the total bid, the total estimate, the delta between the bid and the estimate, and the recommendations about which bids we are recommended

to award, and which will need to be re-bid. He presents the options. Option A is to award the recommended contracts and re-bid the others. Option B is to re-bid HS-2 in its entirety, but we do not feel that would be as successful. In October we received 101 bids, which is a very good response. If we were to re-bid all divisions Mr. Gesaman does not believe we will get the same response. The pro to Option A is to be able to order materials and secure labor. Finally, we looked at the updated timeline which reveals that Option A would give us a six month delay from the original timeline, and Option B would be a nine month delay. It is the consensus of the committee to go with Option A, and to award the recommended contracts. Mr. Kehoe will speak to the rest of the Board to see if they are comfortable with first and final at the meeting on February 8, 2022.

BP EL-2 Addition Location Update Presentation – Mr. Dinkeloo presents a look at the updated site plans for Bird and Smith Elementary Schools. He explains that throughout the process they always try to remain fluid, and adapt to the needs of the stakeholders. Originally the intent was to add the additions to the rear of the building and enclose the courtyards. However, while reviewing plans, the Bureau of Fire Codes added comments to the drawing to say that they will no longer allow the enclosure of courtyards without updating sprinkler systems throughout the entire building. The goal then became to keep the addition the same, but shift the additions to allow for a 20+ foot opening to the courtyard. There would be a gate added to close off access to the courtyard after hours. There will be glass that would allow those inside the building to see out into those areas, and security cameras will also be present. The committee looks at the before and after drawings and discusses the pros and cons of the necessary designs. The principals are on board with the new designs, and we have worked through the challenges that the new locations pose.

EL-2 Classroom Furniture – Keri Seeney from TMP presents a look at the upcoming Bid Package #EL-2 furniture. In looking back at the EL-1 projects, we were able to order the furniture in April, but due to supply chain issues and limited installers, furniture was not received and installed by the start of school. We want to try to avoid those delays in going forward. In order to address that issue we have separated the furniture orders into two phases, in order to be able to move the classroom furniture purchase forward. The recommendation today is an estimate, but we will have actual quotes available to the Board on February 22, 2022, and are requesting a first and final reading in order to expedite ordering to hopefully get the furniture in time for installation prior to the start of school. Ms. Seeney tells the committee about the feedback we have received from the BP EL-1 buildings, now that they have their new furniture. Some of the main feedback is that the desks are too large in relation to the COVID distancing, the desks do not have enough storage, and the kidney tables do not allow for 6 students. In this package we plan on ordering slightly smaller desks, a smaller chair for kindergarten students, and horseshoe tables for the older students. Member Christianson feels that we are not choosing as flexible pieces as she has seen at other districts, such

as wobble chairs, standing desks, etc. We are buying some wobble chairs for every classroom, and the more flexible furniture is located in the media centers and learning commons areas, such as "sushi" chairs. We will continue to gather feedback every year and adapt as we move forward.

Budget Survey Planning - We will change the date of the budget feedback survey window. Member Kehoe wonders if this survey covers some of the same areas as the recent ESSER funds survey. Superintendent Merritt feels that we should perhaps delay the survey window to allow for more time to make the community aware that budget season is starting. They will discuss in CORE tomorrow on ways to advertise the budget survey, and how this fits into the Dynamic Plan rollout. Member Kehoe asks that we move toward doing this a month and a half earlier next year to better align with the dynamic plan and give the community ample time to give feedback.

Adjourned: **7:36 p.m.**