



Finance & Operations Committee

December 22, 2022

MINUTES

Meeting called to order by Committee Chair: Kehoe 5:04 p.m.

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

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

Also Present: B. Gesaman, W. McCarthy, K. Ingle from McCarthy & Smith; D.

Dinkeloo and J. Maino from TMP Architecture; Kyle Fellenbaum and Melissa

Mascarello from ABM Services; A. Reynolds from Durham School Services

Citizen Representatives present: Roderique, McKee **Others:** none

Public Comments - none.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes – December 8, 2022 - approved.

Bid Awards for Bid Package #EL-3 Isbister – Ms. Piesz introduces Derek Dinkeloo from TMP Architecture and Brian Gesaman from McCarthy and Smith to present to the committee all of the information related to the bid awards for the Bid Package #EL-3 bid divisions. Mr. Dinkeloo shares a brief presentation that shows the conceptual drawings of the project. Mr. Gesaman goes through the bid results and updates the committee on the budget for the project. We look at the budget summary and determine that if we do not move forward with the LED Lighting replacement at this time, but we do move forward with the additional restroom remodel alternate, the total cost will be \$4,912,497.64. Member Kehoe asks for more detail as to what each classroom is used for, and he would also like detail as to how many contractors were invited to bid. Member Christenson has questions regarding the cost savings associated with LED lighting replacements.

Next Phase Bond Furniture Purchase – Jen Maino from TMP Associates shares a presentation that shows classroom layouts and the recommended furniture pieces for Isbister and Pioneer MS. She shares that we are recommending many pieces from the vendor VS America. The pieces chosen for Pioneer reflect the furniture that was used in Liberty Middle School, which has been very well received. For Isbister, we did not have to purchase additional student desks, because we had a surplus from the EL-1 and EL-2 projects, but they will still be getting new student chairs. Included are music room furniture, art room furniture, new office/clinic furniture, and itinerant office furniture. The presentation shows the Learning Commons and Media Center areas, as well as the furniture and equipment recommendations for those areas.

Member Christenson asks about student participation involved in the furniture choices. Mr. Gruszczynski is aware of some student participation at the building level, and we will provide information to the board around that subject.

Update on Bid Package #HS-3 (Starkweather) – Mr. Gesaman and Mr. Dinkeloo present some conceptual drawings of the projects planned for the Starkweather Building. He gives an overview of the future addition and renovation work. Mr. Gesaman has included a budget update on this project. Again we have the LED Lighting replacement separated as an alternate (cost estimate of \$480K). This will go out to bid in late January or early February 2023, with bid awards in March.

Renewal of Stormwater Management Plan – Every 5 years we need to get Board approval on the P-CCS District Stormwater Management Plan. The last approval was completed in 2018. An up to date plan needs to be complete before permits can be issued. This item will be presented for first and final reading at the Board of Education meeting to be held on January 10, 2023.

2022-2023 1st Quarter KPI Report Presentations -

- **Custodial Update** – Melissa Mascarello and Todd Fellenbaum are here from ABM to present their 1st quarter KPI reports. Based on the report, training will be conducted over winter break to improve the lowest scoring areas. The report includes inspection data, conducted by both ABM and P-CCS, on a regular basis. There have been many less issues reported on the google doc used by staff to report deficiencies. The report also touches on staff counts and hiring data, staff appreciation events, training processes and goals, floor care for snow season, and holiday break deep cleaning. Member Kehoe commends ABM on hiring progress, and ask for information about the current counts.
- **Transportation Update -** Angela Reynolds, Transportation Director, presents the 1st quarter transportation KPI reports. The report includes staffing information, the streamlining of training processes, cost per mile, cost per rider, and the cost per bus per day, as usual. We discussed the average daily ride time and on-time performance data. We discuss the accident data, which has shown an increase as compared to other quarters. To address this issue as well as staffing and attendance issues, Ms. Reynolds has instituted weekly meetings, additional training and re-training, and new disciplinary action guidelines.

Member Kehoe would like to include the information about the 10 contracted drivers and the 2 others as separate numbers in the KPI presentation for transparency. He would like more detailed information about where the accidents are occurring (on school property and off-campus). He requests the accident counts for the month of December 2022, and an update of this KPI report to be included in the next Board Notes in January. It is noted that there has been a new slide included here to reflect the driver wages in neighboring districts. This data includes pay amounts for both Durham and Trinity Transportation. There is an additional slide showing the top reasons bus drivers give for leaving regionally. Current Durham recruitment efforts offer sign-on bonuses, referral bonuses, and an Ambassador program.

2023 Bus Purchase and Electric Vehicle Analysis – Ms. Piesz introduces Mr. Gruszczynski to present the recommended purchase of 11 new special education buses. The committee has a discussion about the future purchase of electric buses. It is revealed that the average route in the district is approximately 78 miles, but it has been discovered that during the cold weather when heating is necessary, electric buses only have a 50-mile capacity before needing to recharge.

Ms. Piesz shares that we are recommending moving ahead with the purchase of this group of 11 buses, as the pricing expires in January.

We discuss the advantages and disadvantages, as well as the “Total Cost of Ownership (TCO)”, between using diesel fuel and gasoline. There is no difference in the performance of the buses, or the cost to buy them, however the research shows that gasoline buses would represent significant savings over diesel when you consider the TCO data. Therefore, Member Kehoe asks that Mr. Gruszczynski get the MSBO consortium pricing quotes for 11 gasoline-powered buses instead of the diesel. This item will be presented for first reading at the Board of Education meeting to be held on January 10, 2023.

School of Choice Program discussion - Superintendent Merritt gives an overview of P-CCS history with the School of Choice (SOC) Program. The recommendation for the 2022-23 year will be to add 500 seats potentially (young fives thru 10th grade). We have been receiving up to 480 applications in recent years, but with only 250 open seats, we have needed to hold a lottery to fill the seats. If we were to expand that number to 500 seats, we could fill all the requests in a timely fashion, before families move on to other options. We are also working on a plan to expand offerings for the Virtual Academy (VA) Program. The School of Choice resolution will be presented for a first reading on January 10th, 2023 and for second reading on January 24, 2023.

Adjourned: **7:48 p.m.**