

**TIMBERLANE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
February 11, 2014**

Present: Nancy Steenson, Co-Chair, George Stokinger, Co-Chair, Kelly Ward, Jim Hughes, Michael Mascola, Nancy Barcelos, Dennis Heffernan, Jo-Ann Georgian, Brian Shawley, Scott Strainge, Doug Rolph, Michelle Gaydos, Dr. Earl Metzler, Maria DiNola and Mike Hogan (8:44 am).

At the SAU Office, 30 Greenough Road, Plaistow, NH, Madam Chair Steenson called this February 11, 2014 Timberlane Regional School District Facilities Committee meeting to order at 8:35 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Madam Chair Steenson allowed a few moments for committee members to review the October 22, 2013 minutes. Mrs. Georgian noted a correction.

MOTION: Mr. Heffernan motioned to approve the October 22, 2013 Facilities Committee meeting minutes as corrected. Mr. Mascola seconded. With no further discussion the motion passed with one abstention.

2014-15 Budget – Final Version

Mr. Stokinger reported that the projects budget approved by the committee at their last meeting in October was adjusted two times during the budget process. The Atkinson Academy generator (\$225k) and \$20k was removed. Although \$20k for the middle school special education wing was removed from the budget, the project is still on schedule. The district will need to be even more mindful of the bidding and project costs as the 2014-15 projects are addressed in order to keep this item on schedule.

Madam Chair Steenson made it clear that although some building project monies were removed from the budget, the goal and purpose of the committee is to identify and fund building projects that will enhance the educational needs of the students. The committee needs to stay on task even though the Budget Committee determines the overall budget.

Mr. Ward added that historically the budget projects line has been about \$600k. The proposed 2014-15 projects list was up to \$900k. The Budget Committee kicked it back down to \$600k; so technically, they are still on track with the funding amounts.

Dr. Metzler noted the district has been in discussion with the Town of Plaistow about funding a high school generator through the town or via a town grant as the high school campus also serves as the town's emergency shelter.

Mr. Heffernan stated as a Budget Committee member, he was able to provide justification to each of the items on the projects list. The work done at the Facilities Committee level really helped him convey the facility needs to the Budget Committee.

Water Quality

Mr. Hughes noted the district has been served numerous notices of violations for arsenic levels at two schools – Atkinson Academy and the High School. At Atkinson Academy the levels kept creeping up. They thought the media which catches the impurities was saturated; however, after having another contractor come in to consult on the problem, it was determined they were not backwashing enough. They detected type 2 and type 5 arsenic. The engineers are currently reviewing the backwash cycle. In the meantime, the district has increased the number of times it backwashes the system. New water samples have since shown the water to be in compliance. They are waiting the state's confirmation of this.

Regarding the arsenic levels at the high school; although the water system is state approved, they have now learned they can no longer allow the backwash to go back into the ground for fear of recontamination. Options to address this include installing a tank to collect the backwash, which would be considered hazardous waste and an added expense to the district (they use 10k gallons a day), taking out the backwash cycle, or changing the media to a different type. They will get estimates of these options before moving ahead. Discussion ensued

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about the possibility of hooking into a municipal water supply. There are no nearby supplies (or even plans for nearby supplies).

Principal's Building Report

Madam Chair Steenson opened the meeting for principals to report on any facilities matters concerning their buildings.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mr. Hogan stated there was not much to report. They continue to experience heating and cooling issues and snow removal has been challenging. He did note the new glass wall in the cafeteria is working out really well; it provides additional space for numerous activities.

Madam Chair Steenson inquired about the large snow piles at the entrances of the high school campus, specifically the one between the middle school and the far entrance by the ball field. She indicated that the rise in the road coupled with the height of the snow bank make it almost impossible to see oncoming traffic. Mr. Hughes stated that every couple of storms he contracts Busby to come and remove the snow banks. Due to the expense, he is not inclined to have the snow removed after each storm; but every couple of storms. With the anticipated storm coming this week, he will call Busby to address.

HIGH SCHOOL

Ms. DiNola reported she is keeping up with the water issues relative to required notifications. She stated she has implemented facilities tours of the high school along with department heads to review cleanliness and order or classrooms, and has reviewed the work order process for better work flow. She is getting excellent feedback from teachers about building operations. Most challenging right now is the new modular with the building up of snow and ice. She deals with falling snow and ice from the roof, a broken railing, building up of ice on the ramps, and the buildup of snow and ice at the fire/safety exits. They continue to remove the snow, but the ice continues to build up despite their best efforts. They will install sandpaper type step grips once the weather allows. The inside of the modular is wonderful.

She went on to report that the 100 hallway is experiencing heating issues as the heating elements are blocked by the lab tables and cabinets in the classrooms. Teachers are teaching in their coats. Mr. Hughes explained that the design of the rooms inhibits the circulation of heat from the registers and until such time as the room is re-designed, there are no other options to access the heat. They have even cut holes in the cabinets to allow for some of the heat to radiate the room. Mr. Ward suggested installing fans to help with the convection.

Mrs. DiNola expressed her opinion that until such time when a new building is built, there are real needs associated with the current building which need to be addressed on an ongoing basis. The athletic wing does not have heat in some of the rooms and other rooms are torn apart. It's imperative they take care of what they have in the present, regardless of future plans. She said the buildings overall are well taken care of, but there are pockets of areas that need attention.

Dr. Metzler noted the school board held a retreat back in December to look at the master plan and how to move forward. Mrs. DiNola asked if they can move ahead and address items without a long term plan. Dr. Metzler responded they can move ahead and fix items as needed and noted it might be easier to get public support for improvements to individual building spaces versus a brand new high school. Mr. Hogan stated the conversation needs to be about addressing the needs *now* as the students are here *now*. If it involves safety or the quality of instruction; it must be addressed now. He noted that the ASD space that was constructed five years ago has serviced over 90 students to date; and it cost less than it would have to have sent just two students out of district.

Madam Chair Steenson agreed and added they do not have a new facility now, nor do they have plans for one, thus they need to address the needs of today. Mr. Hughes noted there is an issue of heat loss to the high school due to the building envelope. There are single pane windows with outdated walls that do not retain the heat. There is \$680k worth of windows that should be replaced and walls need to be insulated. Madam Chair Steenson expressed her frustration as a committee that all this is going on and the Budget Committee is not hearing this testimony or understand the urgency of building needs.

DANVILLE ELEMENTARY

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Mrs. Barcelos reported the custodians at Danville are doing an excellent job and the town is working with them in keeping the area clear of snow and ice. They do need to remove some of the snow piles; however, the town has been very responsive. She then went on to share about the issues with the front doors locking while they should be unlocked. It was determined to be a software problem which took two weeks to get fixed. She ended her report stating the building has heat and they are warm.

SANDOWN NORTH

Mrs. Georgian reported that the unevenness of the pavement is contributing to challenges in removing snow. The depressions in the pavement make for ice and snow pockets that have resulted in six slips/falls this year – one of those falls her own. She noted the special education suite created this year was constructed quickly and beautifully. This space is used for students to compose themselves in a dignified setting. This area is very much appreciated.

SANDOWN CENTRAL

Mr. Rolph reported they have experienced a few roof leaks due to the roof being flat and they, too, are experiencing cooling and heating issues. Snow removal has been great as they get quick response from the town to remove high snow banks.

POLLARD

Mrs. Gaydos reported that the Town of Plaistow is responding well to snow removal at Pollard. She stated the first phase in window replacement has been done and now they need to order shades as they are imperative for security reasons. A piece of the fence between the school and the church has been removed and this has aided in the snow removal capabilities, though they will need to remove some snow piles should they get another substantial storm. She reported there was a boiler issue last month that has been taken care of and the newly installed front awning has clearly delineated the main entrance. They have received numerous compliments about it.

ATKINSON ACADEMY

Mr. Shawley referenced the water issue previously spoken about and noted they are working on it. There were some leaking roof issues along the 4th and 5th grade wing. Snow removal is good as they do not have build up of snow banks or ice to report on. He stated when there is a problem with the heat; Mr. Hughes is on it right away as he recently replaced eight of the nine circulation pumps in the 1803 building. They re-piped the system and it is working very well. There is also a window replacement plan in place.

Mrs. Gaydos added that modifying Rodney Mills' schedule to work Saturdays is a smart use of district resources. This allows for projects to be done uninterrupted.

Other Business

Mr. Stokinger provided actual figures for the project budgets as follows: 2013-14 was \$616k and 2014-15 is \$676k. He then reminded building principals that spring is right around the corner and to forward their spring/summer grounds projects to him and Mr. Hughes so they can prioritize and order necessary materials.

Future Meetings:
May 13, 2014

With no further business before the committee, Madam Chair Steenson adjourned the meeting at 9:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Belcher
Executive Assistant

Minutes completed and on file February 13, 2014.
Minutes approved _____.