

February 2, 2012

PRESENT: LAWRENCE FINNERTY; JACK NOBREGA, CHAIR

ABSENT: THOMAS CLARK

Also in attendance was Dr. Mary Louise Francis, Superintendent and Deborah Brown, Business Manager.

The meeting began at 6:45 p.m.

The Work Order Reports were reviewed.

Dr. Finnerty asked how we prioritize the work orders and when do we call in the City.

Dr. Francis noted that we call in the City for emergencies such as we had at the Gomes Elementary School. We contact the City for the Hillman Street building.

Voted unanimously on a motion made by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Nobrega to receive and place on file the Facilities Work Order Reports.

The minutes from the last Facilities Subcommittee Meeting were reviewed.

Voted unanimously on a motion made by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Nobrega to refer the minutes to the full School Committee.

Ms. Brown updated the Subcommittee on Parker Elementary School. There was a leak in a hot water tank in the boiler room. Mike Medeiros and Mrs. Brown went to the school to view the leak. They were informed that the tank was wrapped in asbestos so Maryann DeSousa of the City Health Department was informed. She contacted the MA Department of Labor Standards, Janice McKenna, who came out to inspect along with a New Bedford colleague, Avelina Correia. Ms. Correia, Ms. DeSousa, Mr. Medeiros and I met at the Parker School. We looked over the area and then went throughout the school to look at where other areas of concern would be.

- Mechanical room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, small patch is needed.
- We contacted our certified asbestos technician and had the areas of asbestos removed.
- New hot water tanks are currently being installed
- Janet indicated that there should be signs postings of asbestos alerts in areas where contractors might work such as mechanical rooms/boiler rooms.
- Also informed other measures we should be taking.

Ms. Brown updated the Subcommittee on Taylor Elementary School. The MA Department of Public Health was originally called in by the School Department and City Health Department regarding water damage and potential mold and ventilation issues. However, we were notified that there was some breakage in asbestos wrapping on heating pipe in the basement.

Cori Holmes of the State was notified and came in to recommend that it be repaired immediately. Within one and a half hours, we had a certified technician in who rewrapped the asbestos. There is a follow up report and we are addressing the short-term and long-term recommendations with the help of Cheryl Henlin of New Bedford who has helped the school a great deal. We have a matrix of recommendations and actions so far and are addressing the less complicated/expensive ones first. For the more complicated, the question remains, will Taylor be decommissioned? It is under consideration and in the pipeline at MSBA.

Voted unanimously on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Nobrega to accept the verbal report from Deborah Brown, Business Manager.

Statements of Interest were submitted by the deadline for the Parker School (window project), Hathaway School, DeValles School (priority), Winslow School and Campbell School. The District has not received any update from the State yet. Ms. Brown was told near the end of the deadline, that the State had received 170 applications.

Mr. Nobrega asked if the State is slated to come to New Bedford.

Dr. Francis responded that we are hoping they will.

Mr. Nobrega asked if Taylor is going to close down.

Dr. Francis stated that the plan is to get Taylor off line.

We are having Janet McKenna come out to New Bedford to train custodians during February vacation. We will also continue to work with our consultant to be sure we are in compliance with these regulations and have inspections, logs, signage, etc when they are needed. Peter Cabral was recently trained and is our designated person for asbestos issues.

Ms. Brown presented a Gomes School update. In an effort to move along the carpet removal at Gomes School as recommended by state Health and Human Services reports. We had a team of custodians undertake the work on a weekend on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, in the 700 pod. We ended up having residual odor from the agent used to strip the floor. The process is to first use a stripper which should be diluted by = 4 parts water; then neutralizer, then wash with clean water. This process had worked successfully over the Christmas vacation. A few things went wrong:

- The stripper wasn't properly diluted.
- When the scrubber machine went over the floor, some of the agent leaked through cracks in the honeycomb ceiling of the first floor and some material went on to rugs and desks on the first floor.
- A fire alarm was tripped and the Fire Department responded.

Throughout the weekend the crew continued to clean up and air out the rooms with industrial fans. However, a residual odor is still present.

The teachers were uncomfortable with using these classrooms, so one teacher has moved her class permanently and the others are utilizing different locations in the building. This will continue through February vacation then we will have to see if teachers are comfortable moving back in.

We had Cori Holmes from the state come in with meters to check air quality and he has deemed the areas safe, with no measurable readings, but no one wants staff to be in a location where they aren't comfortable.

In the future, we will be sure of better supervision and that there is more time allowed for a project like that and will continue to address other recommendations in the report.

Next was a report by Peter Cabral and Dr. Croteau on electrical system and light fixture issues; roof damage and alarm systems.

Dr. Finnerty asked that more detailed information be given. What does "inadequate electrical" mean?

Mr. Nobrega asked what we are doing about the roofs.

Dr. Francis noted that it would be an enormous expense and it would be the burden of the school department, although we could ask the City.

The expected opening of the Joaquim "Jack" Nobrega Field House will be around the third week of March. Furniture for the building has been ordered and the keying/lock system is being installed.

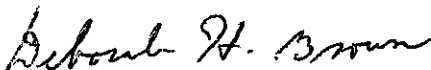
We have started receiving restitution for the damage done by vandals at the Hayden McFadden Elementary School. We do not know how much in total will be received.

There was a brief discussion regarding a dedication. It was decided that it should also be discussed with the Mayor.

A motion was made by Dr. Finnerty to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Nobrega seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Deborah H. Brown  
Business Manager  
Sub-Committee Liaison