

FACILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES - APRIL 8, 2015

Attendance: Deirdre d'Albertis, Mark Fleischhauer, Lisa Rosenthal, Sheldon Tieder, Tom Burnell, Joe Phelan.

Members of the committee briefly discussed a Facebook petition to discontinue the use of Styrofoam products in RCSD's cafeterias. Ed Davenport and Larry Anthony have been in conversation with the high school student who has taken on the cause; Joe Phelan alluded to the various costs associated with moving either to washable dishes/cutlery or to trays/plates made of a more environmentally friendly material.

Tom reported on his recent consultation with Mr. Chuck Bastian of Bernard Donegan and Associates, a financial consultant for capital projects whom we have used consistently for prior projects. Tom presented to this group a "proposed capital project timeline" (see attached) prepared by Mr. Bastian for a hypothetical May 2016 Voter Referendum. Tom stressed that this is a hypothetical timeline; May of next year would most likely be too early to go to voters. Tom walked the committee through the process, explaining in detail what each stage entails in terms of securing an architect, determining costs, liaising with SED, etc.

Tom also shared data on the projected net local share of debt service for a \$5 million Capital Project. He explained how important it is to estimate accurately the amount of building aid any district can expect from the State with such projects; he shared a few examples of local districts that ran into trouble in this regard. He also pointed out that technology projects are distinct from the kind of costs for which SED must provide oversight (healthy and safety regulations being myriad with renovation and expansion projects). In fact, technology projects are booming at the moment; once Smart Bond details are made available (perhaps in late April) this trend is bound to continue. The curriculum committee should be involved in developing any capital project plan: do we need to revise or extend any educational spaces to support the curriculum?

When a plan comes together, there will be substantial need for communication with our community. How will debt servicing impact the budget and local taxes? Joe's sense is that the ideal time to go out for such a referendum is in late fall (October or November). Prior to any vote, a community group would need to be organized to gain valuable input on any proposed plan. The earliest he could imagine scheduling a vote is fall of 2016. Unless interest rates change dramatically, both he and Tom see this as a viable timeline.

The immediate priority is to complete the Building Conditions Survey this summer. An RFP will be put out and a firm will be selected soon. After completion of the BCS, drafting of a proposal should follow in fall 2015. The next Facilities Committee meeting is scheduled for May 6th.

Respectfully submitted,
Deirdre d'Albertis