

COMMITTEE ON JOINT SCHOOL BUILDINGS

August 6, 1997

6:30 PM

Chairman Higgins called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: School Cmte. Members Higgins and Healy,
Aldermen Reiniger, Clancy, Domaingue

Messrs.: Mr. Houle, Mr. Marinace, Chief Albin, Ms. Lamontagne, Ms.
Labanaris, Mr. Ludwig

Chairman Higgins addressed item 3 of the agenda:

Middle School --

- (a) Site Visit
- (b) Project Summary Report
- (c) Architect's Report
- (d) Life Safety Change Orders/Fire Department
- (e) Site Maintenance/Parks, Recreation & Cemetery

(b) Project Summary report:

Mr. Houle advised that there were a couple of items to be dealt with, namely a dust problem at this site that Alderman Domaingue has received complaints about.

Alderman Domaingue stated one homeowner in particular on Brady Circle, by the name of Mr. Puchasz, he lives at 77, his home abuts the area which will eventually be a soccer field that currently houses some large piles of dirt. They do not have a fence or any type of barrier that protects their property so the wind and the traffic is combined to produce constant daily sand and dirt problems for them. The dirt gets into their pool and onto the clothes that they hang out on the line. I would like to see this problem addressed in some manner. I recognize we cannot put them in a bubble, but I think we can be responsive instead of ignoring it and hoping they can live through it.

Mr. Houle replied we do have a site meeting tomorrow morning, we have one every Thursday morning, It is my intent to advise the general contractor if he does

not come up with a solution by the end of the day, that we will have one in place by Friday, and we will back charge him. He is responsible for dust control. I have been here on three occasions, and we do have a problem down there, particularly when the wind is blowing.

Alderman Domaingue stated contractors tend to like to do things their way and I appreciate that, but they are abutting a residential neighborhood. I think that maybe a little creative thinking like reducing the size of the piles, maybe covering them if they are not being utilized on a daily basis with some kind of a tarp. I don't know whether we can provide a temporary barrier such as what is provided for in an environmental situation.

Chairman Higgins requested that Mr. Houle inform Alderman Domaingue when a solution is reached.

(C) architect report:

Mr. Marinace stated the contractor has provided us with a bar chart that you have all seen. We asked them for more detail and what they have given us is a schedule of values, which is not really the time schedule you asked for. We do have everything that is required of the contractor, it would be their choice to give us something more, and we have asked for it. They contend that the bar chart does show critical events. I think this whole thing started with when are we paving the access road. That seems to be the critical event everyone is concerned with. That is scheduled to take place on August 24.

Chairman Higgins asked can we ask the contractor to be at a meeting please.

Mr. Marinace answered I will ask him to be at the next meeting.

Chairman Higgins stated we would just like the contractor to understand some of our concerns. This bar chart is not easy for the lay people to understand.

Mr. Marinace advised that there was a change order requested by the State Fire Marshall's Office. They approved the plans but requested some changes which we argued about, but eventually we gave in.

Alderman Clancy asked who reviewed the plans.

Mr. Marinace answered Beverly Kowalik, and she knows the code, but the code is always open to interpretation. We interpret the code the best we can so we don't squander money, and they interpret the code the way they want to. That is where

we fight. In this case one of the changes is, we have the capacity of the gymnasium figured out for a certain number of people, 1,000 being a magic mark, as soon as you go over 1,000 people in capacity, you are into a Class A occupancy. Under a 1,000 person occupancy is a whole different category. If you figure the gymnasium strictly by square feet, so many square feet per person, you can possibly fit a 1,000 people in the gym. But you cannot operate the gym with 1,000 people in it. The Fire Marshall figures the area used 100%, they figure the capacity is over 1,000. We figured the capacity at just under 1,000. It got to a point where it was their word against our word, they do have the final say by law. So they are forcing us to put one extra exit out of that gym, so the gym will have four exits instead of three. What we have done is take one double door exit and changed it to a single door, and put in another single door in the wall of the gym. Obviously that adds money because two openings are more expensive than one.

Chairman Higgins asked does that other exit open to the outside?

Mr. Marinace answered yes. In a Class A assembly you must have at least 50% of the exits opening directly to the outdoors.

Alderman Domaingue asked you have obviously been through this process before, why do we even encounter a situation where we are arguing with the Fire Marshall's Office, is it a cost factor? If there are 1,000 people in one gym, I sure as hell as an official of this city want to know I have enough exits to get them out of there if God forbid something should happen.

Mr. Marinace answered there is no way we try to circumvent the code because it doesn't cost us any money to put the door in. What we try to do is a reasonable job in designing the building, and we really believe that a double door is a lot more effective than two single doors, and we don't believe that the capacity of that gym is 1,000 people, how can you put people where there are bleachers stacked up against the wall. The Fire Marshall doesn't count that, because what if you take the bleachers out of the building. They can make up all kinds of things, it is a matter of code interpretation. It is not a matter of we are not designing according to code, the code is not that clear.

Alderman Domaingue asked then they see the room as empty? They operate from the standpoint that the room would be empty and what would the capacity be with the room at complete emptiness?

Mr. Marinace answered it is a combination, they also figure it with the bleachers open and so many inches per person, and so many people on the floor, so many

square feet per person, it is a bit of complicated formula. If it were easy, there wouldn't be any problem. We tried to keep the capacity under 1,000 people.

Chairman Higgins asked the capacity of this school, is it 700 or 800?

Mr. Marinace answered 800, not counting staff.

Deputy Chief David Albin stated as Mr. Marinace said, prior to building any school in the State of New Hampshire, that receives stated Department of Education funds, is mandated to be reviewed by the State Fire Marshall's Office. All of this gets done during the conceptual stages of the beginning architectural stages of construction. I am not a builder or architect but I do have a bit of experience in construction projects and I realize that time is money. We tried to the best of our ability when Mr. Marinace submitted the plans to the Building Department and the City, to sit down with the State and grind these things out. We picked out a few things that we found and kicked it back to the State. I have a copy of a letter from the State Fire Marshall that I received this week, and the most recent letter that was sent to Mr. Barker of Mr. Marinace's office detailing the problems that they found upon their initial architectural review and that was back on April 11. I will try to explain exactly what the State Fire Marshall told me and what the thinking was in regards to the occupant load of the gymnasium. I don't mean to be condescending but I will read number 8 of the letter, "the occupant load of the gymnasium is still in question. As indicated in my letter dated March 13, 1997, we see maximum use of this area would occur as is typical in many schools when the bleachers are being used for seating and the remainder of the gymnasium floor is covered with chairs. As such the bleacher occupant load is 432, the remaining floor area, 5,800 square feet divided by 7 equals 828" ...if chairs were put on the floor as they would with budget hearings or Town Meetings, with the bleachers pulled out, and the rest with assembly seating, this is where they came up with the worst case number being 1,260. Maybe that would happen and maybe it wouldn't. None of us here are mind readers and I certainly wouldn't want to say whether you could put that many people in an auditorium or not. I know that three years ago when the budget battle was hot and heavy, they packed them in at Memorial High School. There were a lot of people in there. Could it be used? Maybe, but it is there by code. Are you able to put that many people in there, yes. Going with the worst case scenario, and planning for public safety where you always plan for the worst, because they pack the people in. That is why they said you needed the extra door. The rest of the letter details some of the other questions that are on here. We have been in communication with the State Fire Marshall and I have reviewed the plans and sat down with the code review people that we work with and the Building Department and I have not seen anything that really jumps out at me. There are a few things, and I was down on

the site this morning at the behest of someone from the construction company for placing the post indicator valve for the sprinkler system. They wanted to put that someplace where it would not be damaged by snow, where it would be available and where it would not get hit by somebody plowing snow. I did a site walk with one of the superintendents and I told him as far as I am concerned it is up to you where you can put it, what would be the most cost effective place to put it. To me it would be five feet off the building on the sidewalk. When I was talking to the superintendent, some of the problems that we get accused of at the Fire Department, people look at us and say, you wait till the last minute and then you scuttle our job. Well, again, construction projects being what they are, and I know how things work, when the train is going by, if you are a subcontractor you have to get on the train, your window of opportunity opens up and you have to get in there. If you are hanging sprinkler pipe, you have to do it before someone comes in and puts a suspended ceiling up. It might not behoove you right away to have all your plans lined up, but if you are a bonafide contractor and you know what you are doing, you know what type of sprinkler system you are supposed to put in at the school, you know what kind of pipe you are supposed to use, you know the proper density, and you know the proper spacing. Our line on that is to go ahead to get going on the job then submit the plans. The problem occurs when someone, the sprinkler contractor or the general contractor does not specify up front what they want or need for a proper density or coverage or this and that and they go ahead and start the job. Then they submit the plans after they get going on the work and the stuff comes in and it is wrong. I don't foresee that happening on a lot of projects but on some it does. When we see the problems that happen by that means, we have to say you have to stop, you can't do it that way, it doesn't work. One of the things on here, on number 6 it says the specifications require shop drawings, specifications and hydraulic calculations be submitted to the local Fire Department for both the kitchen suppression systems and the building sprinkler system. Again, we are into the project now, and I spoke with the construction superintendent today and told him that I haven't seen them. I don't know who you have for a sub, generally it is the sub's job to go to the office and pull the permit, get his stuff in to us for review. This project being as important as it is, I don't go to every private project in the city, but this being a city building and me working for the city, I thought it would be important maybe at this time to go down there. I don't know, I talked with them today and they are supposed to be submitting that stuff. If they get it in early we'll take a look at it, if the stuff on the paper, when we take the blueprints out, and go to inspect the job, if the pipes are where they are supposed to be and all the devices are on there, we are not going to have a problem. If I get the plans three weeks before the school is ready to open, and we come in there and the proper supervisory devices are not on the system, etc. Then we will have problems. That goes the same for the alarm plans.

Alderman Domaingue stated you have done an excellent job of giving us some insight into the process from the perspective of the fire Department. I guess one of the reasons why I thought it was important to hear from Fire was because I couldn't conceive of this project, which has been talked about for about a year now, going on in the city having to depend on so many city departments, and finding out at the end of the process that if someone had submitted a piece of paper properly and timely to your department, or the Police department, things would not have gotten bottled up. What I heard you say tonight troubles me a little bit from the perspective, I am glad you came to the site, but this project has been ongoing now, we approved this budget back in May. What I am hearing is you took the initiative to come down, I guess my response as a city official is, Fire belongs on board, Police belongs on board, School obviously is on board. This is a city project, I would hope we don't have a single city department sitting in the wings waiting for someone to tell them what is going on here. I would hope they are all on board. We have SCIP meetings about this project, we have Joint School Building Committee meetings, and I could go on.

Chief Albin stated in response to that, we have been involved in this project probably from the day it started. We have been sitting on the architectural drawings and the stuff that went to the State Fire Marshall from the moment it was presented to everybody else and the plans went to the State Fire Marshall's Office. This is the first time I have come to the site because, to be quite honest with you, I had no reason to come to the site. The part of the job that I do, and the part that the Fire Department oversees, is not in the construction phase itself. We deal with life safety issues, and the rest. We don't deal in the site work itself. That is the reason no one came to the site, but in regards to looking at the plan and being involved, this is probably the fourth meeting I have been to. We have been on board right from the beginning with this. Some of the original meetings were held at the Fire Department. We have been in constant communication with the State Fire Marshall's office to try to avert any of these last minute things.

Alderman Domaingue stated I am looking at a letter dated April 11, and this is August, and I am looking at an architect that is sitting here telling me "well, we finally had to give in on these doors and these egresses, and I guess I am in a little disbelief because it is at the point now where we are trying to proceed, construction has to go on. We shouldn't be having these things. We should be working together. Can we get some assurances here that Fire, and Police and Parks... that we are going to get some cooperation instead of the architect finding out after the fact and construction people...if he is not giving you plans you need we need to know about it.

Chairman Higgins asked it says here that the specifications require that shop drawing and so forth be submitted, in other words, they didn't have them back in April. Isn't that part of when you do the specs for the whole building, so wouldn't this have been submitted to them?

Mr. Marinace answered it was submitted shortly after that. We gave them preliminary plans. We did not just finish plans and specs and give them to the State Fire Marshall. We had several meetings there. You wouldn't want to finish a whole set of drawings and then submit them and hope they pass. So we met with the State Fire Marshall's office more than once during the preliminary planning and ironed out a lot of things like locations of fire walls. Some of these smaller things don't get picked up by the fire Marshall until they get a more detailed set of plans. This is not a major thing, adding these doors, we thought we had it covered and they had a difference of opinion. As far as them having all the plans and specs, they have everything they need and have for a while.

Chairman Higgins stated so they have the specs for the kitchen suppression system and the building sprinkler system.

Mr. Marinace answered they have the specs but they do not have the shop drawings, that takes a little bit of time to get.

Chairman Higgins asked what is the lead time on that, how long does it take.

Mr. Marinace answered it will be at least a month.

Chairman Higgins asked and what happens after they have them.

Mr. Marinace answered shop drawings are submitted for everything in the project, we get those and review them, some of them our engineers review and a few of these things we submit to the Fire Department. We will also submit fire extinguishers and cabinets. We have a whole list of things we routinely send to departments like that.

Alderman Clancy stated this letter was dated April 11, how come it is surfacing now?

Mr. Houle answered I did not see the letter directly, but I have known about it.

Mr. Marinace stated we had it, but did not see a reason to bring it here, we were still discussing it. Why pass something around that might not be a problem.

Chairman Higgins stated I just want clarification, when did you submit the final plans and specs, sometime in March?

Mr. Marinace answered I am not sure.

Chairman Higgins stated so after they reviewed it they gave you a list of things, and you had discussions back and forth. Now I have a feeling, and I could be wrong, that you are probably having discussions with other agencies at this point. I want to make sure that I am clear, if the architect is having discussions on different issues, does this committee want to hear about those discussions.

Alderman Clancy answered if it will cost money, yes.

Alderman Domaingue stated if there is a discrepancy in what the architects think and what has to be approved, it is going to be a money issue. My concern right now is that the City is investing, the taxpayers are investing, the departments are investing the time, we can't continue to repeat the same errors. That is the heart of my discussion tonight. Maybe you are used to seeing the city drag along and trip over its mistakes as it deals with a schedule, but I have people living all around this project who are going to continue to suffer because it is a reality it has to be built. So for two years they are going to be inconvenienced and have dirt on their lawns. Let's not drag it out any further because our own agencies can't talk to each other.

Mr. Marinace stated I don't understand why this is an issue because we do this all the time. When we get communications from agencies, we deal with those communications the best we can. We could very easily roll over and say fine, spend the city's money. We fight on your behalf, we try to make things work, and a lot of times we succeed. When I say we haven't won with the State Fire Marshall, on items when they were really adamant, no, but we have swayed them back and forth. It is a bargaining process, and sometimes it takes time, they don't respond right away. We are doing this on your behalf. We are not holding up the project, so let us do things the way we do things.

Chairman Higgins stated the other concern is money, if there are going to be change orders that are going to cost us money, we need to know that.

Mr. Houle stated same for me, if I can resolve a problem, I don't bring it to the table. We resolved a nasty one, and I did advise the Chairman a while ago of a possible 40,000 change order that never reached here.

Alderman Domaingue stated are these issued resolved?

Mr. Marinace answered as far as I am concerned they are.

Mr. Houle stated we have a change order that will resolve the issues in the letter.

Alderman Domaingue asked Chief Albin, do you see anything further?

Chief Albin stated in my communications with the State Fire Marshall's office these were the only issues we could see. There were some other issues, and in Mr. Marinace's defense, regarding interior partitions and doors and certain segregation's according to life safety code rules that we sat back and came to common ground with and worked them out. As far as these things are concerned, the woman who does these plans, Ms. Kowalik, is on vacation for two weeks and I think the only thing I do not have an answer to is number four. The rest of this stuff, there is nothing that is jumping out at me.

Chairman Higgins asked to the best of your knowledge, is this going to cost any additional money.

Mr. Marinace answered I don't expect so. Another item is the electrical room, we have an 8 x 16 foot electrical room. They requested a second exit out of the electrical room. It was a borderline condition but they are requiring a second exit. The last item is enclosed exit stairwells, as long as you have enough exit stairwells that are enclosed, you can have open stairwells. They requested that one more stairwell be closed. It was an interpretation thing. We have to enclose the stairwell with concrete block walls. Between those three things, the change order comes to \$7,314.00.

Chairman Higgins asked that is not reflected on here is it? And where would the money come from.

Mr. Houle answered there are two contingencies here, one under PBS/Special Building Committee, and there is 142,000 presently under the committee's control.

On motion of Alderman Domaingue, duly seconded by Alderman Clancy, it was voted to approve the change order in the amount of \$7,314.00.

(e) Site Maintenance:

Chairman Higgins stated Mr. Ludwig is here from Parks and Recreation, and we have had discussions on site maintenance with the trees, shrubbery's, lawns, etc.

We have a communication from Mr. Ludwig and one or more of the committee members have questions for him.

Mr. Ludwig stated we have met several times with the architect during the planning stages. Obviously we come at the end of the totem pole as it relates to how much money is left when the site gets addressed as you can well see by how most of our sites look. Given that, Mr. Houle tried to list some of the responsibilities of departments. We met with Mr. Houle in his office and I was agreeable to 99% of the items. Some of the things I wanted to be careful about as it relates to the site were because I have never had responsibility at any other school sites for the immediate surroundings to the school building. Our responsibility has always been with the playground or the athletic facilities around. One of the things on the list was lawn mowing and lawn maintenance, and I would like to know what that is. If lawn maintenance means airification of turf, top dressing, overseeding, fertilizing, and all those things, you are at a whole other level of which I have never been responsible for. I really don't even think the Parks Department should be. To solve the other issue that I have, a fine line on fencing. Fencing is a massive problem throughout the city. As it relates to schools in particular there is a fine line between what encompasses a athletic facility and what is actually around the school and who is responsible. In the past it has been very haphazardly defined as it relates to who fixes it. If it is a large project we have been addressing sites through the CIP Program, and have addressed fencing whenever it has needed to be addressed. I include a very small amount of money in my budget for fence repair. If it a responsibility that the Parks Department is going to be asked to accept as it relates to fencing, if we are signing a document that is going to set precedent and be responsible for 100% of the fencing at this site, that is a little different.

Chairman Higgins stated we are setting precedent, that is what this school is all about. You certainly have a representation of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen here. As a school board member, this is out of my realm.

Mr. Ludwig stated I am not ready to accept that. What I accept for this site could mean I am accepting for 16 other sites.

Mr. Clancy asked are we going to be opening up a can of worms here by Parks doing this school and not the others?

Mr. Ludwig answered that is my concern. I was asked to sign off on a document, I did, but if I had not included what I felt was some concerns, I think I could be held hostage down the road. I just need to know that as a part of my budget process, that this is going to be my responsibility.

Brief discussion including the School Board Members who were present that are not members of the Joint School Building Committee regarding what responsibilities belong to what department.

Alderman Clancy stated the responsibilities need to be spelled out.
Mr. Houle answered for this school it has.

Chairman Higgins asked what about the shrubs?

Mr. Houle answered that is difficult, because the custodians are not landscapers.

Alderman Domaingue stated what I am hearing from school personnel and that is the root of this is in confusion. When they have a problem with maintenance of their lawn areas, the realities are such that they need to know who to call. Who is going to be responsible for what, which is what generated this list. I am not sure we have ever done that before. What you are hearing on this project is a different attitude that says before we even commit to what we are going to spend, who is going to take care of it. The thing that threw me when I received Mr. Ludwig's letter was that what he seemed to be saying was unless he gets more money he is not taking care of anything. The reason for us asking you here tonight is did we misread you?

Mr. Ludwig answered I am not here to say that I am not going to accept it, but I am not going to accept it without the proper tools to do it. I am going to tell you that the school sites themselves are a difficult thing to accept. If every one of our schools, the immediate surrounding of the school area, was irrigated, we would be looking at a job that a lot of landscapers would take on. Frankly it is a monumental task to make some of these sites look good. I think that most of the shrubs don't require rocket scientists to take care of. If there was an individual that was attached to this school other than the person dusting and washing the floors, it would not be that difficult of a job. When we talk about landscaping crews, I don't have experienced landscaping crews. It is a major commitment by someone. I would say the only way you would accomplish it is by contract. I have, over the past year, instituted a pilot program at Memorial soccer field, football field, Al Lemire field, nine football sites where we asked the contractors to come in, because I don't have personnel or equipment to do that kind of work, and asked them to do some detailed landscaping. Now that we have upgraded our work in certain sections, we are starting to see some action. It isn't going to turn over in a season, and we started by virtue of the fact that no one bid on the project in April. I am starting to see some noticeable difference in some of the facilities where we instituted these turf maintenance programs. I haven't done it in house, I have had to do it by contract.

Alderman Domaingue stated we are all mindful that the taxpayers pay the tab so we have to be careful on that. Your recommendation is that the maintenance of this land area around this new school as well as others should be under the purview of the PBS department and that they should contract out if it is the will of the school board and the Board of Mayor and Aldermen have the funding to go ahead and invest additional monies to maintain those areas, is that your recommendation?

Mr. Ludwig answered I guess it would have to be. If I put myself in the seat of either a School Board or an Aldermanic seat I would have to say isn't that green grass, trees and shouldn't that really come under the jurisdiction of the Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Department? Yes, but the way we are set up, because we are the people with the knowledge and the...we are not mobile enough, nor have the manpower to do that sort of thing I don't think, because I am not sure what level you want to see it maintained at.

Chairman Higgins stated which opens up another can of worms, which this committee really can't address, which is maybe it is time that we do institute some kind of a plan to maintain the grounds for our school buildings.

Alderman Domaingue stated that wouldn't be the purview of this committee though.

Ms. Lamontagne asked is there going to be an irrigation system if we are putting a lawn around this building? Are you putting in an irrigation system?

Mr. Marinace answered we have an allowance for irrigation in the ball fields but not the lawn around the building.

Ms. Lamontagne stated I go around the city, I see West High School, that hasn't had a drop of water, it is all burnt, Northwest is horrible. My feeling is if you are going to seed and put bushes or whatever around, grass needs water. There is no one in the schools to do that, so I think if you are going to spend money on seeds for the lawns and bushes, you may as well spend some money on an irrigation system too. Otherwise you may as well put bark mulch and stones.

Mr. Ludwig stated we, through this process, and I am not sure if it is definite at this point because the city had already spent significant money putting in soccer fields, and given the use each of these fields will have, our only chance of trying to maintain them to some degree is irrigation.

The Chairman suggested that due to time constraints the meeting be recessed so the committee could view the school site. It was agreed that the maintenance issue be on the agenda for the meeting in September.

On motion of Alderman Domaingue, duly seconded by Alderman Clancy, it was voted to recess the meeting to view the school site.

The meeting was called back to order.

On motion of Alderman Clancy, duly seconded by Mr. Healy, it was voted to approve the choice of brick for the school shown by the architect.

Chairman Higgins addressed item 4 of the agenda:

Central/West Heat & Ventilation Improvements --

- (a) Project Summary Report
- (b) Painting Request
- (c) SBC Change Order Recommendation
(to be available at meeting)

(a) Project Summary Report, (b) Painting Request.

Mr. Houle stated there are not significant changes on the project status report. There has been discussion about doing additional painting at Central High School at the administrative areas which is the office and across the corridor in the guidance area and also probably two thirds of the ceiling in the cafeteria. There is about \$13,000 worth of painting and there has also been a request for painting in the rear stairwell at James Building which will probably be used more now that the locker rooms are completed. That would cost approximately \$4,000. There is also painting requests for the libraries at Memorial and West High School which the school department is replacing the carpet. This was reviewed yesterday by the SCIP Committee and these are all for the most part, non bondable items. As you are aware \$80,000 was earmarked for painting projects. We have a demonstration going on with the use of volunteers and we anticipate some success there. The bottom line being that the SCIP Committee believes that to use these funds out of the \$80,000 to do this work would not be inappropriate unless there are some objections I am just going to move forward with these projects.

(C) SBC Change order recommendation.

Mr. Houle stated there is a change order in the amount of \$23,736 for asbestos removal at West High School dealing with the plumbing and I guess the question is how did we get ourselves in this position.

Alderman Clancy asked where is it in the basement?

Mr. Houle answered it is between floors, we had to do a lot of core drilling for piping for the heating system. We had the numbers provided for last year, towards the end of the project in Phase I the decision was made to use up the project balances and we got rid of the steam heat in the auditorium at West High School. We got caught a little off guard by this and I had little choice but to authorize the work so it did not slow the project down.

Alderman Clancy asked how much more asbestos is left at that school?

Mr. Houle answered all of the floors are asbestos. This issue was reviewed by the SCIP Committee, and \$25,000 from the FY98 School Capital Improvement Program for this purpose is being made available.

On motion of Alderman Clancy, duly seconded by Alderman Domaingue, it was voted to approve the change order in the amount of \$23,736.

Chairman Higgins addressed item 5 of the agenda:

Central High School/Locker Room Improvements

- (a) Project Summary Report
- (b) Painting Request

(a) Project Summary Report.

Mr. Houle stated there were no significant changes since the last meeting, with the exception that the contractor is looking for a ten day extension. One of the issues holding him up is the quality of the floors.

Alderman Clancy asked when will it be completed?

Mr. Houle answered the original date was August 15, with the extension it will be the 25th.

Chairman Higgins addressed item 6 of the agenda:

ADA Accessibility/School Elevators

(a) SBC Recommendation

Mr. Houle advised that it was recommended that they award the work to CMK Architects. The money is available in the amount of \$90,000 in the CDBG ADA money earmarked for this purpose. Although it includes additional work if you look at the proposed fees we are looking at elevators at Highland Goffs Falls, McDonough, Parker Varney, Parkside Junior High, and Webster School. I will be asking Foad Afshar to prioritize the work plan on these. Our intent right now is to move forward as quickly as possible with Highland Goffs Falls.

Chairman Higgins asked is this part of the IEP (Individual Education Plan) for some of these kids, where they have to go to their neighborhood school.

Mr. Hobson answered correct.

On motion of Alderman Reiniger, duly seconded by Alderman Domaingue, it was voted to approve the ADA renovations.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Houle stated about three months ago, there were discussions with Principal Baines at West High School and the Superintendent of Schools in Bedford relative to converting a couple of classrooms for Special Education students. We have been working with the School Administration and this issue has been reviewed by the Building and Sites Committee, we are moving forward with the planning phase of taking part of an old cafeteria and converting that into two classrooms of about 700 square feet each, along with an ADA compliant toilet facility between the two rooms. Funding is being made available through the FY98 School Capital Improvement Project. We are earmarking \$100,000 at this point. If approved by the Board of School Committee the project will be under the jurisdiction of this committee. I have asked Tom Wallace, who is a subcontractor to WB Engineering, to handle the design of this and to solicit bids from existing contractors. We have been advised that Meridian Construction, who are doing the heating and ventilation, does not have the time to do it. Eclipse does not have the time to do it. Bonnet Page and Stone has indicated an interest in it. We hope to have all that information ready for the Board of School Committee Monday evening. I will not be present but Tom Wallace will.

There being no further business to come before the Committee on Joint School Buildings, on motion of Mr. Healy, duly seconded by Alderman Clancy, it was voted to adjourn.

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A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee