

COMMITTEE ON JOINT SCHOOL BUILDINGS

April 20, 1998

6:30 PM

Chairman Higgins called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Pinard, Girard, and Klock, School Committee Members Higgins, Johnson, and Healy

Messrs.: Superintendent Tanguay, Richard Houle, Frank Marinace, Fred Matuszewski, Robert MacKenzie, Asst. Superintendent Brennan, Jan Thompson, Eric Hastings, and Tom Wallace.

Chairman Higgins addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Minutes of meetings held January 27, February 18, and March 18, 1998.

Alderman Pinard made a motion to accept the minutes. Alderman Klock duly seconded the motion. Chairman Higgins called for a vote. Alderman Girard being duly recorded as abstaining, the motion carried.

Chairman Higgins addressed Item 4 of the agenda:

Middle School --

- a) Project Summary Report
- b) Contractor's Report
- c) Architect's agenda

Mr. Houle noted that he handed out a revised Project Summary Sheet for the Henry J. McLaughlin, Jr. Middle School. It reflects an addition of \$35,700 to impact fees which were previously listed as \$214,300. It is, in fact, \$250,000 and for the most part it affects total available contingencies, the one in the agenda and this one. They don't quite match up and that is because there was \$16,359 change order #5 that was approved at the last meeting and not posted. It is now so the total available contingency is really now \$97,449.35. One note on the contractor's

report is that generally speaking the interior work is about a month ahead of schedule, but the masonry exterior is about a month behind schedule. The brick work will be complete somewhere in early June.

Chairman Higgins asked does that impact on the opening.

Mr. Houle answered no but we thought he would be further along than he is. We are measuring him against the schedule previously given to the Committee and thought he would be closer on both those items.

Mr. Marinace stated we are getting close to the end of the project and there are three different areas we have to think about. One is the building itself. That is under the general contractor's work, the construction. We have a little more to do on that and that is change order type material. The other part is furniture and equipment which we have received bids for. That is the second chunk of money. The third chunk of money is the furnishings and equipment and details that we have not received bids for. That is generally bought by the school district. Those three areas we have to deal with. The one I want to talk about first is the loose equipment furniture that we have already received bids for because we need to award those in order to honor their bids and get the stuff to the school on time. Before we make any decisions on things like change orders, we need to make sure that everything is tabulated. We only have so much money left to spend on the project and we want to make sure that we don't overspend. We have to buy loose equipment, look at the stuff that you have to buy and look at the change orders. We will hold the change orders until the end because there is more flexibility in that. Tables and chairs, teacher's desks you have to buy so lets look at that first.

Alderman Girard stated for the record, in the past I and other members of the Committee have requested that such material as this be forwarded to us prior to the meetings. I really do not like to get stuff at the beginning of a meeting that I do not have the opportunity to review.

Mr. Marinace stated we try to do that, but the reason we couldn't do it with these loose equipment bids is because we were still getting input from staff right up until noon time today. We were not even sure if we were going to have this done for tonight. However, in the future we will try to do that. What these contracts represent is everything we did a couple of months; generally classroom furniture. Teachers desks, filing cabinets, library furniture and stacks, etc. If you have any questions about the first bunch of awards that total \$295,891, I can tell you what is in each one of those contracts. What we did was tabulated all the bids we received and got samples of some of the pieces that we wanted to see which were in the Superintendent's Office for a couple of weeks. The Administration looked at

them, made recommendations and those recommendations were taken into account in these contracts. We didn't get samples for everything. A lot of this stuff is very clear because if three bidders bid on the item specified and one is lower, it is lower. Things we have a choice on, it was hard to judge which one was better so we got samples. With these contracts, it takes care of a good bit of the furnishings in the school. Not all of it, but a good bit of it. What it doesn't take care of is the things I would like the school district to go ahead and buy. Things that we don't have the expertise to bid or buy. I have that list attached. The total award we are looking for tonight is \$295,891.91. You have already approved the \$14,115.54 for the art tables. That brings the total of loose equipment and furnishings to \$310,007.45. Your budget for loose equipment and furnishings is \$365,800.00. So we are \$55,792.55 under budget right now but we are not done so don't spend it yet.

Chairman Higgins stated at the last meeting we asked the Superintendent to work with Mr. O'Shea and I think Mr. Brennan wasn't on board yet but he was coming and the three of you were going to be working on selecting the colors and those kinds of things and our objection was to that brown color so has that been taken care of.

Asst. Superintendent Brennan answered we think so. We have looked at the panels and made a change in the color. I think that is one of the boards that Frank has with him.

Mr. Marinace stated I brought it back with some change in the colors.

Chairman Higgins asked to see them.

Mr. Marinace answered we can do that now if you want to, but it has nothing to do with this.

Chairman Higgins asked isn't that the desk and things.

Mr. Marinace answered no, the furnishings are different. This is building colors. We can't pick the colors for the furnishings until we award contracts and then they give us the samples of the item that we select.

Chairman Higgins asked didn't we look at desks and chairs at the Administration Building.

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Mr. Marinace answered yes, but those colors came along with the samples we asked them for. Those samples weren't there for selection of colors. At that point, you didn't know whose chair you were going to buy and we still don't know until you approve this.

Alderman Girard asked are the bids that you have presented here or the awards are you recommending that we make these bid awards.

Mr. Marinace answered yes, we have spent a lot of time going over this.

Alderman Girard asked are these bids that you are recommending we accept for award are they the lowest competitive bid or have you made recommendations here that are based on things other than cost.

Mr. Marinace answered when you get a bid on a piece of equipment it is not quite so simple. You may get five bidders and each bidder will bid on a different chair. We put a spec out and it could be a pretty detailed spec but when we get the final chairs in, somebody will have the lower price and it might not meet the spec in every regard so we toss that ought. What these represent is the lowest bid that met the intent of our specs. A few bidders may have tossed in a cheaper table just to get a lower price and you can see that because the price is a lot lower than others.

Alderman Girard asked so the bids here are the lowest bids that are responsive to the specifications.

Mr. Marinace answered that's right.

Alderman Girard stated all we have here are companies and numbers. We could make various assumptions as to what these bids represent as far as the product being purchased or service being rendered but do you have any information that you could forward to the Committee as to who is providing what.

Mr. Marinace replied I have all the contracts with me. They were coming off the printer at 4:45 p.m. I have a set of contracts and it is lengthy. There are pages and pages.

Alderman Girard stated I think a summary of what each company is providing would be in order.

Chairman Higgins asked do you want him to go down the list.

Alderman Pinard suggested that copies be made and given to the courier to deliver.

Alderman Girard agreed with that suggestion. However, for the future that is the type of detail he would like to see on these things.

Chairman Higgins asked Frank Marinace if he could provide copies of the contracts.

Alderman Girard stated I don't want the specs and I don't want the contracts. I just want to know what each company here is providing because we are being asked to make bid awards to companies for dollar figures and I have absolutely no idea what any of it is going to.

Chairman Higgins asked why don't you (Frank) just tell us what each of these things are.

Mr. Marinace answered School Furnishings, Inc. is providing classroom book shelves and tall book shelves for offices, secretaries desks, periodical display unit, paperback spinner, computer tables, portable science demonstration units, cafeteria tables, music stand storage carts, nurse's scale, tumbling mats, video library stands, waste baskets and nurse's waste receptacles.

Alderman Girard asked nurse's waste receptacles. That has nothing to do with Nurse's Equipment that is on Page 2.

Mr. Marinace answered like I said some of them are split. I didn't want to start bidding on nurse's equipment.

Mr. Marinace stated Equipment Environments is providing music chairs, teacher's desks, wire shelving, activity tables (260), conference tables, long activity tables, bedside tables for Nurse's Room, nurse's cots, fire proof file cabinets, music stands, and pencil sharpeners (60). Criteria II Ltd. is providing the librarian's chair, library shelving, end panels for the library shelving, more library shelving in different sizes, and round activity tables. Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment is providing stools, chairs and couch for the library, library chairs for students, principal's desk and principal's credenza, student desks (255), newspaper rack in library, atlas stand, student chairs (1,050), book truck for the library, circulation desk for the library, lab tables for the science rooms (84), coffee table for the library, library tables, computer work stations, nurse's curtain and projection screens (48). Robert H. Lord Co. is providing teachers chairs, secretaries chairs, executive chair, conference room chairs, activity tables, two drawer file cabinets,

and four drawer file cabinets. TAB of NH is providing metal shelving for storage rooms. Londonderry Organ & Piano is providing the piano with the stool and the truck to move the piano around. Major Theater Co. is providing the stage curtains. Contract Window Designs is providing window blinds. These are the vertical blinds, not the shades. Robert H. Lord Co. you already approved for the art tables.

Chairman Higgins asked is that the same company that did the work at West, Contract Window Designs.

Mr. Houle answered I don't know but I will check.

Alderman Pinard asked how come you have so many different things for the nurse. Wouldn't that be a department by itself to buy its own furnishings? Is there a duplication of effort?

Mr. Marinace answered no, we double checked. We tried to get a bid on the nurse's cabinet and nobody bid on it so we had to put it in the category where the school can buy it. What we did bid on for the nurse was the scale, cots, curtains, bedside tables, a desk and chair and wastebaskets.

Alderman Klock asked for verification as to how you go about choosing what kind of furniture goes into particular rooms such as the library and the couch. I am not sure who decides we need a couch.

Mr. Marinace answered I guess because that is what you hire us for. We run that by the Administration. We started out this process meeting with staff and getting their input on all of the rooms. A lot of that input has been put into that building. As staff changes, ideas change. A lot of this is our recommendations based on other projects. We look at each room, say what is happening in this room, what is the program, what do you need to conduct that program. Where we might put in desks which we did in a lot of cases, the Administration came back and said we really want tables so we changed it.

Alderman Girard asked you make recommendations on furnishings and the Administration reviews and makes amendments and ultimately what you put out to bid is the recommendation that the Administration made based on the material that you originally developed so whose idea was the couch. I have to admit I am rather fascinated by that because I have yet to see a couch in a library.

Mr. Marinace answered you are picturing an overstuffed couch like you see in your Living Room but this is more of an institutional, three wide couch. You have a place in the library with a couple of soft chairs, a couch and a coffee table in the

middle and that is where you sit and do some quiet reading. We have put them in every library we have done so far.

Alderman Girard asked do we have any couches in the libraries in the City.

Superintendent Tanguay answered we do in some but I am not sure which ones.

School Committee Member Healy asked is it something that the Superintendent deems appropriate for the library. Was it something that you folks took a look?

Superintendent Tanguay answered yes.

Superintendent Tanguay stated on the bids, I see you have co-mingled the loose equipment items into bid items and what we have to bid out.

Mr. Marinace replied yes they are mingled.

Superintendent Tanguay stated for example on the computer wiring there is \$100,000 budgeted and there is only \$80,000 on here. Are we going to have enough money to buy what we are supposed to buy?

Mr. Marinace responded you are looking at the second page. The reason that number changed from \$100,000 to \$80,000 is because \$20,000 was done under the general contract. Some of these things move from category to category and we got a lot of that done in the general contract because it was cheaper to do it that way.

Superintendent Tanguay asked on the total budget of \$307,000 will that be sufficient to meet the needs of what we have to go out and buy.

Mr. Marinace answered that is what I want you to tell me. That list is my best guess at what you need to finish the school. You need to look at this and say yes this is what we need to do and this is how much money we need to finish this school. For example, flammable storage cabinets. You need two at \$600. That is a pretty good guess.

Superintendent Tanguay replied I guess we will go out and buy this as long as we have enough money in the budget to take care of it. Secondly, I am sure you wouldn't take items from yours and put them in our portion to change the numbers around, but there is co-mingling going on.

Mr. Marinace responded there is co-mingling and there is a reason for that. On some things we didn't get bids. We bid things out like that nurse's medicine cabinet and didn't get a bid so I had to throw that into stuff you have to buy. A lot of the stuff like art easels at \$300 maybe that is something you give you art person as a budget to buy easels and if they are \$15 a piece you buy 20 of them and that is it.

Superintendent Tanguay stated but that is a different question. Are we buying based on the needs of our school or based on available funds?

Mr. Marinace replied I came up with this list, you didn't give it to me. This is my best guess. I need you to give me some information on this.

Superintendent Tanguay stated we will look at what normally should go in a school and if it is not in here then we will have to buy it.

Mr. Marinace responded right. I am doing this as a convenience so that the Committee can see the whole picture. I don't want to say lets buy all this loose equipment and lets sign all these change orders and then have you missing some equipment.

Superintendent Tanguay stated lets go back to the original questions about what kinds of equipment go into the school. Usually you have specs which tell you exactly what will go in classrooms, libraries, etc. I think that kind of information would be helpful for the Committee to have. Is there a standard list available that will tell you exactly what should go into the school.

Mr. Marinace replied we came up with that list a long time ago.

Chairman Higgins stated actually that is a good point because of this Committee, only two of us were here originally so they don't have all the pieces of the puzzle. They are coming in at the tail end. I don't know if that is going to help you tonight in making your decision.

Alderman Girard stated I have gotten the answers that I need. My main objection here is being presented with companies and figures that I have absolutely no idea what the authorization to buy is. That is my objection. The process that it has gone through to develop the specs and everything else I don't have a problem with that.

School Committee Member Johnson stated you mentioned also the flammable storage cabinets. Is that really what it is supposed to say, flammable? The storage cabinets are flammable?

Mr. Marinace stated in the catalog it is called flammables storage cabinets.

Alderman Girard asked the money here under school district purchased equipment, he guesses that Mr. Marinace has taken in order to finish the school, is this bond money that is at the discretion of the Committee to spend. Where is this money coming from? The \$307,375.00.

Mr. Houle answered in terms of overall source of funding, it is on the top part of the Project Summary sheet.

Alderman Girard asked so all of this is expected to come from the bond.

Mr. Houle answered for the most part but there are also impact fees and cash.

Alderman Girard asked can we bond beakers. It doesn't seem to me likely that they have a 20 year life?

Mr. MacKenzie answered I think typically if we look at a whole package, a turnkey school would be bondable. I am not quite sure about beakers but that is one of the reasons we included the impact fee money which is not bonded monies and if it comes down to a difficulty assigning, ultimately the bond council would check to make sure they are bondable items. We do have \$250,000 from impact fees which is basically cash. It will come down to perhaps some accounting. If there are some items that are not considered appropriate for bonding, those would be paid for out of cash impact fees.

Alderman Girard asked what happens if there are more inappropriate for bonding amounts than there is cash available in this project.

Mr. MacKenzie answered I can't answer that right off the bat, I would probably have to go back to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and get more bond money which I would hate to do.

Alderman Girard asked if the amount of materials that needs to be purchased that is not eligible for bonds exceeds the cash portion of this project, the impact fees, are we in a situation where we have to come back to the Board of Aldermen to ask for that cash.

Mr. MacKenzie answered probably. I would expect though that typically furniture in the school is bondable. That is considered part of a turnkey package. Furniture, shelving, computers are all bondable. It comes down to your more disposable supplies like beakers, etc. but that is usually a small percentage.

Alderman Girard stated that is what I am trying to get at with pages 2 and 3 of this summary we have been given referencing school district purchased equipment because art easels, glassware, biomodels and charts and stuff like that they don't, I guess I was wondering where the money was coming from and whether or not it was appropriate but I think you have answered my question.

Alderman Pinard stated looking at the telephone, \$20,000, did that go out to bid or is that just Bell Atlantic or whatever the case may be.

Mr. Marinace replied obviously it hasn't been bought yet. Some of the system is in the building. There is an interface and then there is the actual equipment you buy. That has not gone out to bid yet and hasn't been purchased yet. That is for the users of the building or the City to negotiate with different telephone companies for equipment.

Chairman Higgins stated just to make it clear, the first page is what they have already bid out. Then the rest of it is something we will have to purchase ourselves and he has given us a guesstimate of what he thinks that equipment will be and what the price will be. He doesn't know. He needs to get together with the Superintendent.

School Committee Member Johnson asked is one of the things that we need to do this evening in looking at this list and looking at the bottom line where it comes to almost \$25,000 over budget, do we need to weed out and bring this in line with the budget. Is that one of the things that we are supposed to do this evening?

Mr. Marinace answered no. Let me explain what that is. If you look I put in my guess for the loose equipment that you still have to buy which is the \$307,000. That is my guess. Our budget lines, 62, 63 and 64 from the Project Summary allow \$227,000 for that stuff. I actually estimated \$307,000. I threw in the balance from the page before that of \$55,792 that we were under budget because some of the loose equipment has to go into this. Right now, between the loose equipment that you will be signing contracts for and the stuff you still have to buy, you are \$24,000 over budget. You can't take the \$55,000 under budget plus the \$24,000 over budget and think you are ahead. You are behind in both things by \$24,000. There are two places you can get this difference that I know of. You can go down this list of the owner purchased equipment, the rest of the stuff you need

for this school and verify that you really need those amounts of money. The other place is in contingency. Right now you are \$24,500 in the hole if you sign these contracts.

Chairman Higgins stated we have close to \$100,000 in contingency. Can you foresee anything that we might be using that contingency money for?

Mr. Marinace replied yes, remember when I first started I said there were three areas we had to worry about. We just looked at two of them. The equipment that we bid, the stuff that we haven't bought, and the last part is the construction itself and that is the change order part and we will go over that. You can use up all of your contingency right now if you want to. I wouldn't recommend you do that but we are getting so close to the end of the project that a lot of these change order items are optional. You wouldn't be able to make a decision on those unless you had all this equipment. You have to be able to see all the pieces.

Mr. Houle stated Dick O'Shea at a previous meeting talked about the possibility of funding for kitchen equipment from another source. What is that number that you have for kitchen equipment?

Mr. Marinace replied I don't know if they can get 100% of the funding from another source but the amount is \$90,000 or so.

Mr. Houle stated I don't know what the funding is either but if we were able to recover some of that we could look at it as contingency.

Alderman Girard asked was the School Department aware that the architect does not believe he has the expertise necessary to bid out the stuff under school purchased items or is this the first they have heard of it.

Chairman Higgins answered it is not that he doesn't have the expertise it is normally...is that what you (Frank) said that you don't have the expertise to bid this out.

Mr. Marinace stated I bid out some of it and didn't receive bids. I don't think you want me bidding some of these things out.

Alderman Girard stated that was not my question. My question is basically whether or not this is the School Department's first knowledge that they are going to have to do some of this.

Asst. Superintendent Brennan replied no, not at all. Since I have arrived this has been in front of me and I am sure it was there before I came.

Mr. Marinace stated before we turned the first shovel full of dirt on that site, I made up a list of stuff that is going to be in general contract, stuff we were going to bid out and stuff that the school district was going to buy. It is a year old so this was broken out a long time ago.

Alderman Girard asked has the School Department taken any steps to begin the procurement of this given that the school opening is coming up.

Superintendent Tanguay answered we will proceed with the procurement. This is the first we have seen in terms of a detailed list.

On motion of School Committee Member Johnson, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to approve the contract awards for a total of \$295,891.91.

Mr. Marinace stated we already took care of Items 1 and 2 of my agenda. Item 3 is approval of the color board. If you remember, you looked at the color board at the last meeting and what I gathered from that is that you had a few colors you didn't like. You stated that you wanted the Superintendent to look at it and agree on the colors. We changed the color of the lockers. I don't know if you remember but this was a rust color. If you remember, we have different teams. There are red, blue and green teams. This whole scheme is for the red team but 90% of what you see is going to be neutral colors so the color board isn't realistic. Mr. Marinace went over the different colors and what the colors would be used for. The approval process is far behind the construction process now.

Chairman Higgins asked if the Superintendent had final say on the color board.

Superintendent Tanguay answered yes.

Alderman Girard stated I thought at the last meeting we referred the whole color scheme matter to the Superintendent for his discretion. To be candid with you like I said at the last meeting I really don't want to sit at a meeting where we are going to argue over color schemes. I think we have got better things to do.

Superintendent Tanguay stated I did look at the colors and they were fine. I know that some people have some concerns about the burgundy.

Alderman Klock asked are we looking to vote on this tonight.

Chairman Higgins answered no, he is just showing us.

Superintendent Tanguay asked if there was a different shade of burgundy available.

Mr. Marinace answered we had it on there last time. It was a rust color. It wasn't good. You only have so many choices in lockers. There are maybe eight or ten color.

Mr. Marinace addressed Item 4 of his agenda, approval of the building plaque. He stated we were asked to come up with a building plaque design, dedication plaque and we did that. A sample was shown to everyone. It will be a cast bronze plaque with a likeness of Henry on it.

On motion of Alderman Girard, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to approve the plaque.

Mr. Houle stated it is my understanding that the architect and general contractor are paying for this contract.

Mr. Marinace replied that's right.

Mr. Marinace addressed Item 5 of his agenda, landscaping for the slope. He stated we don't have a price on this and it is not a change order yet but it is something we would like to know if you want to at least take the next step on. The steep slope between Green Acres School and the new building where the old stairs used to come down is pretty ragged. It was never scheduled to be a finished area but now that the building is taking shape, that is what you see, that slope and it has got everything from sumac to...it is just pretty awful. We looked at landscaping that slope. Mr. Marinace showed a chart depicting the area. The new building is down this way and Green Acres is on top of the hill. We looked at landscaping it with ground cover so it wouldn't need any maintenance, a few small trees and some bushes. Things that are low maintenance that would cover that slope, keep it from eroding and keep the kids from coming through and look nice. We think it would cost about \$8,500 to do all this work and that includes the site contractor stripping out what is there and putting loam on the slope and getting bids. We haven't bid it yet. If you would like us to continue with this, we will do that.

Chairman Higgins asked if we get bids on that, until we sign on the dotted line we are not committed to that so that is something that we can have as an option.

Mr. Marinace answered yes, but rather than put a lot of people through the trouble of bidding, we want to at least in concept see if you want to go with something like this to take care of that slope. If not, it is going to remain just the way it is which is pretty bad.

School Committee Member Healy asked will the money come out of the contingency account.

Chairman Higgins answered yes.

Alderman Girard requested that the Committee send a letter to the Parks & Recreation Department to see if there is anything they can do with that slope so we don't have to engage another contractor. They might be able to do something within their current allocations on that site. If Mr. Marinace wants to seek bids that don't obligate us, I am happy to have him do that but I would like to see if we could avoid the expense all together with Parks & Recreation doing the work.

Chairman Higgins asked is that something you could put together for us, Dick.

Mr. Houle answered I think if there was a directive by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen they definitely would, but they have been consulted in this process.

Alderman Girard asked does Parks & Recreation recommend this course of action if they have been consulted.

Mr. Houle answered their original reaction was that they had no problems with the native growth. That was the phrase they used. The native growth is what you would be staring at as you walk out of the front door of probably the best building this City has built since the turn of the century. It is going to look horrible. It is going to require labor and plants. I think we can go through the formality of talking with Parks & Recreation but my sense is unless they were directed to do so by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen they are not volunteering.

Alderman Girard moved to have Mr. Marinace proceed with soliciting bids but also that this Committee send a letter to Parks & Recreation asking for their input on that site. Alderman Klock duly seconded the motion.

Chairman Higgins called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Mr. Marinace addressed Item 6 of his agenda, the graphics package. This is just informational. We are putting together our specifications for the room identification and graphics inside the building. That is included in the general contractor's bid. That is an allowance. We will be putting it out in May sometime.

Chairman Higgins asked is that something that you work with the Administration on so that they have final choice.

Mr. Marinace answered yes. We make recommendations as to a room numbering system and give them a plan.

Mr. Marinace addressed item 7 of his agenda, exterior signs. We have been looking at a sign out at the road to identify both the middle school and the Green Acres School and the sign ought to be something substantial so it can't get vandalized. Mr. Marinace showed a board with a proposed school sign. We are looking at two granite posts and this could be a piece of granite. The letters would be carved into the granite so there is nothing to vandalize, nothing to pull off. When they carve them into the granite, they can color it so it will stand out. This sign is 8' high and one of the things we recommend because if you don't do it there will be a little trailer parked out there with sticky letters, is putting a directory kind of under the sign saying what the events are at the schools. You have seen these little billboard type things. In order to avoid that and have it look nice we suggest putting this on there. We haven't gotten bids on this either.

Chairman Higgins asked but that is under the general contract.

Mr. Marinace answered no it isn't. What we have in the general contract is \$10,000 for graphics. I think the sign package, interior sign package, my guess is that it would come in around \$6,000 or so.

Chairman Higgins asked and what did you say the allowance was.

Mr. Marinace answered \$10,000.

Chairman Higgins stated so that would allow for \$4,000 for that sign.

Mr. Marinace replied yes except that is not enough money to buy this sign. I guess this sign is more like \$8,000 if that is the kind of thing you want to go with. We can also get bids on this too. It is in the same category as the slope landscaping.

Alderman Girard asked does this sign conform to the zoning in the area. I would hate to see the City put up a sign that didn't follow its own zoning in the area given what we currently go through in this City at the Zoning Board of Adjustment with signs.

Mr. MacKenzie answered the City is exempt from the zoning statutes. If there were a commercial use there they would probably...this is in a residential zoned district. Typically signs are not allowed for residences. If there was a business there, they would probably go to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and get a variance for the sign. Typically signs in the City are at a maximum of 200 square feet. I think this one is less than half of that.

Alderman Girard asked will this sign be lighted.

Mr. Marinace answered no, we have no provision for that.

Alderman Girard asked is it possible that we could check with the Highway Department to see if they have some granite curbing that you are going to use as posts. The granite they use is not bad and it might be nice to check. We might be able to save some money.

Mr. Marinace answered I don't think curbing comes in this length.

Alderman Girard replied I don't know. Just given the amount of granite that the Highway Department does have on hand it might be good to check to see if they have something even if it has to be cut.

Mr. Marinace replied those are the cheap part of the sign. The money comes in the engraving.

School Committee Member Healy stated I would have concern as to the painting of the letters onto the granite because that won't last.

Mr. Marinace replied they are not painted onto the granite. These are etched into the granite.

School Committee Member Healy responded you said that then they were going to paint them.

Mr. Marinace replied paint them inside the recess. Those last. It is not regular old paint. They tell us that it is supposed to last.

Chairman Higgins asked how long.

Mr. Marinace answered I can't tell you, but it is your choice. They can color them in or not color them in but I wouldn't recommend letters that stick out because the kids will take them.

Alderman Pinard asked about the timeline for delivery of the sign.

Mr. Marinace answered I suppose we could get it in a month and a half.

Asst. Superintendent Brennan stated in terms of the lettering board that was added since the last time I saw this, is that going to be enough room for both schools to use. Do you have any idea of how many letters you can get on there?

Mr. Marinace stated it is three rows and it is 8' long. The problem is that if this starts getting too big it gets covered by the snowpiles and you can't read it and you can't put this any higher because then you are in way up in the air. So we are trying to get this all in the same proportion.

Chairman Higgins stated one school could use one side and the other school could use the other side.

School Committee Member Healy stated my concern is that where it is so low underneath the sign, is vandalism. Kids walking and kicking it. How long is that going to last? I like the idea of it being there and letting the public know but I don't think it is going to be a very smart idea to put it there. I don't think it is going to last.

Chairman Higgins agreed.

Mr. Marinace asked how would you have the school announcements. You just wouldn't have it?

School Committee Member Healy answered a number of our schools have the signage right on the building. I know this school in particular could not have it.

Alderman Girard asked does anybody here know what the material or what the sign at the intersection of Bridge and Mammoth Road where the Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Department welcomes you to the City of Manchester, does anyone know what the material on that sign is made of. I understand what you are trying to do with the sign, but granite is awfully expensive and I can't see paying \$8,000 or \$10,000 for a sign.

Mr. Marinace answered the other choice is a painted metal sign but that is more susceptible to damage.

Alderman Girard asked does anybody know what the material that the Chamber of Commerce signs are made of or the Parks & Recreation sign up by the Derryfield Park are made of.

Mr. MacKenzie answered the Chamber of Commerce signs are a combination of metal and wood but they are not intended to be used for more than a couple of years.

Alderman Girard asked is that Parks & Recreation sign a wood sign.

Mr. MacKenzie answered I think that is a wood sign, yes.

School Committee Member Healy stated taken in light what happens in this City, when this sign goes up this sign will be here for a good long time and I think what we should put there should be something that will last and is of good quality.

Chairman Higgins stated I think it would be a shame to build a \$9 million school and put up a cheesy sign.

Alderman Girard stated you can put up a decent sign without spending \$10,000 on it.

Chairman Higgins replied that is a guesstimate and I do agree about the bottom. I think that is going to be a problem. It is too low and it will be right out on Mammoth Road.

Alderman Girard moved to bid out on the sign as is and also find out what materials were used in the Parks & Recreation signs and have the sign bid out on those materials so we can have a comparison. Alderman Klock duly seconded the motion.

School Committee Member Healy moved to make an amendment to remove the bottom portion of the sign. Alderman Girard duly seconded the amendment.

Chairman Higgins called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Mr. Marinace addressed Item 8 of his agenda, appliances. He stated that this was an allowance under the general contract. We bid out the appliances and they came in \$933 over our allowance. I suggest we don't do a change order to this but apply this overage to any allowance we have for the graphics and see how it shakes out. We didn't put that as a change order right now because it may come out okay with the graphics.

Mr. Marinace addressed Item 9 of his agenda, window in library office. He stated we added a window in the librarian's office. It is a change in the building. Every time we make a change in the building we want you to know what it is. There is no cost.

Mr. Marinace addressed Item 10 of his agenda, proximity reader locks. There are three main doors in the building. Each group of main doors there will be one door and the student entrance doors which can be used after hours. That is five sets of doors which would be earmarked for proximity readers. We have the specifications in development right now. If you want us to not pursue that, that is fine but it will end up costing \$12,000 to \$15,000 to do that. The proximity system is highly encouraged by the Police Department.

Chairman Higgins asked is that the key card system.

Mr. Marinace answered you don't stick a card in, you just hold a card up. Cards can be programmed for any time, any one use at any time during the week. You will also know who comes into the building.

Chairman Higgins stated personally I don't think that is an option we should bypass. That is what we are moving towards in the rest of the City.

Mr. Marinace addressed the change orders. The first one, Item 11 on his agenda, is additional data cable. That was requested by the Technology Coordinator or Technology Department for the school. I put him in touch with our electrical engineer because I knew they had to be interfaced. You guys have to buy some computer equipment and you have to be able to plug those things in and you have got to put things in the computer closets that all of your computers plug into and the general contractor is bringing a bunch of wire in and connecting those to something. So Mr. Erikson had a few suggestions for the engineer and the engineer came up with a few specs and we priced it out and that is what it came in at. I suggest we do it so the computer system will work. You will still have to buy everything from this connection on under that other list.

School Committee Member Johnson moved to approve the Change Order for additional data cable at a cost of \$2,579.00. Alderman Pinard duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Girard asked why are we doing this.

Chairman Higgins answered because our computer expert says that we need some extra cable to plug in the computers.

Alderman Girard asked so you are saying if we don't have this extra cable we can't plug in the computers.

Asst. Superintendent Brennan stated the point is basically we are going to attempt to network the school at the same time and we needed to increase some of the wiring there that we didn't plan for when this building was being built. In terms of the networking costs, we need to have this cable.

Alderman Girard asked can any of that money be taken from the technology grant that was received to network the schools.

Asst. Superintendent Brennan answered I believe that technology grant was for the existing schools and not new schools.

Alderman Girard asked is there a balance left in that account.

Mr. MacKenzie answered that is not a grant that we handle.

Superintendent Tanguay answered I don't know if there is a balance in that account.

Chairman Higgins stated regardless if the grant says we can't use it for new schools it doesn't matter if there is a balance in there.

Alderman Girard asked is the grant restrictive. I would like to have this item tabled until such time as we have those two answers from the Administration.

Chairman Higgins asked Mr. Marinace if he needed an answer quickly.

Mr. Marinace answered he would need an answer by the next meeting at the latest.

Chairman Higgins asked Superintendent Tanguay to get the information to her and then she will have the Committee polled.

Mr. Marinace put up a chart showing different areas of the middle school. He pointed to the new softball field and noted that the backstop that is there now is old and beat up. The contractor has given us a quote of \$2,226 to replace the old backstop and put in a new one. If you would like to do that, you can.

Chairman Higgins asked isn't that something that Parks & Recreation usually takes care of.

Alderman Girard asked has Parks & Recreation seen any of the material that would be relevant to Parks & Recreation, whether it is a backstop or anything else you have here Mr. Marinace. How do we know that the bid that the contractor is giving you and that you are giving us is...how do we know the process it has been through for bidding and how do we know it is the lowest bid that has been offered, how do we know that more than one source was checked? This is the real problem I have with this process is zero information other than what I get on a summary sheet which honestly doesn't tell us much.

Mr. Marinace answered there is an attachment to this. Look at Page 12 on the agenda.

Alderman Girard stated it gives the number but it doesn't answer any of the questions that I asked which is how many bidders, etc.

Mr. Houle stated we cannot go to bid in a situation like this or add onto the existing contract. Frankly in this case the offer was made because the subcontractor felt it would look better and I suspect it would be easier to install new than to reinstall the old one which is why. We did not solicit the proposal. It was offered.

Mr. Marinace stated for all of these change orders actually. We don't go out to bid for these. We request quotes from the general contractor and it is our job to look at the quotes, argue with them, justify the cost and bring them to you.

Chairman Higgins stated in other words they are requests that are made as the building is going up.

School Committee Member Johnson stated I just wanted to say that if we hired on Frank Marinace and he is a professional architect and they go out for bids I think that we need to show a little bit of trust here in that he is going through the bidding process in the proper manner. Obviously he is going to go with the best bid that meets our specifications. We are not going to have every single bit of that

information on paper, but if we have him we need to trust that he is doing his job otherwise we wouldn't have hired him.

Alderman Girard stated I won't argue that except to say that if we were going to say that in all cases then we wouldn't need meetings and we wouldn't need to approve anything.

On motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Klock, it was voted to approve the change order for the new softball backstop for a cost of \$2,226.00.

Mr. Marinace addressed the next change order for insulating underground piping. He stated that was done at the recommendation of the engineer.

Mr. Houle noted that the work is already completed and that he directed the work to be done.

On motion of Alderman Girard, duly seconded by School Committee Member Healy, it was voted to approve the change order to insulate underground piping for a cost of \$1,915.00.

Mr. Marinace addressed Item 14 of his agenda, upgrading toilet partitions. He stated we are looking at upgrading the hinges on all the toilet partitions from a standard pin hinge to a much heavier hinge that is almost indestructible.

Chairman Higgins asked are those screwed in.

Mr. Marinace answered yes, with a one-way screw. You can literally hang on the door and nothing will happen.

On motion of School Committee Member Healy, duly seconded by Alderman Girard, it was voted to approve the change order to upgrade the toilet partitions for a cost of \$1,769.00.

Mr. Marinace addressed Item 15 of his agenda, add lockers.

Chairman Higgins asked why are we adding 48 more lockers.

Mr. Marinace answered we don't have to. In the actual layout of the building as the contractor was working out the details we managed to get an extra foot in each one of these team areas. An extra foot on each side where you could put lockers in if you want to. If you don't put lockers in, you will have a filler. We wanted to give you the opportunity to put in lockers now that match all the other lockers. If

you go to put them in later, they won't match. If you are never going to put these extra lockers in then we will just put a filler in. I wanted to give you this opportunity because there is so much discussion about overcrowding.

School Committee Member Healy stated we are going to be using these right away.

Chairman Higgins asked is it 864 that we are up to. What are we up to Mr. Brennan?

Asst. Superintendent Brennan stated 777 is the last figure I had.

On motion of School Committee Member Healy, duly seconded by School Committee Member Johnson, it was voted to approve the change order for 48 additional student lockers at a cost of \$5,548.00.

Mr. Marinace addressed Item 16 of his agenda, additional ventilation.

Chairman Higgins asked why are we doing additional ventilation in the Science prep rooms.

Mr. Marinace answered I am not saying we have to do it. If this were a high school, there would be no question about it but it is a middle school and in the past we have had requests in middle schools to just put in flammable storage cabinets to store flammable materials. Those cabinets do not have to be vented. In a high school you vent the cabinet, but the materials that are stored in a middle school sometimes are not that volatile and the people who make the cabinets have told us to just put the flammable storage cabinets in and you don't need to vent because the room is vented. It could be that you store something that needs venting in the cabinet itself.

Chairman Higgins asked Asst. Superintendent Brennan if it is his experience that junior highs would be using chemicals that would require additional venting.

Asst. Superintendent Brennan answered not at the middle school level.

On motion of Alderman Girard, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to deny the change order for additional ventilation.

Chairman Higgins noted if you (Frank Marinace) are not recommending the change order than we will just go with your recommendation if no one has any objections.

Mr. Marinace addressed Item 18 of this agenda, tackboard in the Band Room. He stated we have a Band Room that is on the stage. We think you need a tackboard in there. We have a chalkboard but we think you need a tackboard in that room. We are recommending that you put one in for \$219.00.

School Committee Member Healy moved to approve the change order for a tackboard at a cost of \$219.00. Alderman Pinard duly seconded the motion.

Chairman Higgins called for a vote. Alderman Girard being duly recorded in opposition, the motion carried.

Mr. Marinace addressed Item 19 of his agenda, additional paving. He pointed out on the board the bus loading zone in the back of the school where the buses would drop the kids off. He pointed out the student entrances. There is grass between the building and the road with a walk going straight up to the door. From what I have seen, when kids get off the buses they linger outside and they don't care if it is grass or pavement they are going to mingle right outside here. I don't think you are going to grow any grass there or there. I think it will be a mudhole and I think you would be much better off paving those areas right up to the building. As much as I like grass and it looks nice and paving is not nice looking, I think the building will be served much better by having a wider paved area so when the kids get off the buses they have a place to stand outside without standing on the grass. I think the Administration and Mr. Houle agree with that.

Chairman Higgins stated we had so many discussions about landscaping and how things aren't taken care of and we had a zillion meetings and I am kind of disappointed that you are bringing this in at this late stage because it seems to me that we have all expressed our concern about that very thing. I didn't realize that there was grass there. I thought the whole entrance was going to be paved.

Mr. Marinace stated we have a 10' sidewalk and that will work but I don't think you are going to grow grass because the kids will spill over the sidewalk.

Alderman Girard stated if we are worrying about kids trampling grass wouldn't it be more cost effective if we built some sort of wall or fence around the walkway so they can't congregate in that area. It doesn't have to be around the whole thing but just where the entrance to the building is.

Chairman Higgins replied you would have to cost it out against the \$6,607. You are talking about a fence, you are talking about grass that has to be maintained and kids are going to go in there anyways and throw their trash over there. I am just disappointed that this wasn't part of the original plan.

On motion of Alderman Klock, duly seconded by School Committee Member Healy, it was voted to approve the change order for additional paving at a cost of \$6,607.00.

Mr. Marinace addressed Item 20 of his agenda, additional underdrain. He stated it is this brown line right here. That is also the bus drop off. The engineers have recommended putting in underdrains under where that sidewalk goes to keep the water level down in that soil and to keep it dry and drained and minimize heaving. I think an explanation is in your package.

Chairman Higgins asked Mr. Hastings why we are looking at this now.

Mr. Hastings answered because we have had a years worth of construction on the site and a year's worth of experience with the soils and we saw over the winter how the soils behaved that they placed in that bus drop off area behind the building. Having seen that and knowing the design of the roadway and sidewalk in the area we felt that adding underdrain in those areas would enhance the long-term performance of roadway paving and the sidewalk paving because inevitably water will get in under the pavement. The soils that underlie that pavement that are there now will not drain rapidly. They will hold that water and you will get frost heaving. In the springtime it will be mucky under there. Buses will come along and you might get some pavement break up over time. You don't really want to see the frost heaving that will lead to puddles and eventual break up of the pavement. Put an underdrain immediately underneath the sidewalk and it gives a quick, easy way for the water to get out so it doesn't cause problems. This area was not designated in the original plans to have an underdrain so we are proposing it as a change order.

School Committee Member Johnson moved to approve the change order for additional underdrain at a cost of \$6,328.00. Alderman Pinard duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Klock stated I agree to put the drainage in but I am not sure why you are bringing this up tonight. I think that this is definitely something that you could have foreseen. A prime example is Hillside School with frost heaves which are a problem. I am not sure why this wasn't foreseen and became part of the plan.

Mr. Hastings answered during the development of the site design last January and February, we knew the site was wet and we put in a tremendous amount of underdrain. I put more underdrain on this site than I have ever put underdrain anywhere in the world in my entire life. We didn't put underdrain behind the school because that was the only location on the site where we were repaving over a fill. So we said probably we will get good, clean fill there. We didn't. We got fill that has a lot of soap in it. It is great for supporting the roadway, but it doesn't drain. So we said lets bite the bullet and recommend the underdrain. When we were putting together the plans in January and February of 1997 we were told you have to keep the site work budget down because we are real tight. We got rid of as much underdrain as we could, we tried to eliminate catch basins, we tried to reduce costs wherever we could before the bid to keep the project within budget and that is why we didn't have underdrains there. Now I am telling you that it is a really good idea to put it in.

Chairman Higgins called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Mr. Marinace addressed Item 21 of his agenda, drainage at Green Acres. He stated as you may recall this project was supposed to be the middle school project but as we have been doing this we have been taking care of some problems at Green Acres. That is one of the reasons the site part of the contract has been so high; we have made a lot of improvements up there. This is another area, a problem that is there right now that can be addressed. Eric can explain what it is all about but the play area there doesn't drain very well.

Chairman Higgins stated before you start, I am looking at the bottom line here and the only thing we have eliminated so far is about \$4,000. Dick, where is this \$75,000 coming from to take care of these change orders?

Mr. Houle answered out of the contingency.

Chairman Higgins asked which contingency.

Mr. Houle answered the way we have been operated is the SBC has not been meeting and as long as...we are talking about PBS contingency of \$2,800 and there is no reason why we can't eat up line 87 first, the SBC then it is the Joint School Building contingency. Hopefully this will be increased by some amount on the kitchen equipment funding.

Mr. Hastings stated behind Green Acres School there is a paved playground that has some basketball standards and now we have built the new soccer field and softball diamond up at the top. We put in the drainage for that on the far side of the sidewalk that leads to Greenwood Court, but right behind those basketball standards there is a little roadway that loops around the back of the school. It doesn't drain well. It didn't drain well before we broke ground on the middle school project and it is never going to drain well unless we do something about it. This past winter we had the occasion to walk back there a number of times as it is near where the contractor decided to store loam piles and we went over there to look at those. It was very soft in through there with a lot of standing water on the existing pavement. So we are coming in and telling you here is the time that you can have this done while the contractor is on site and provide some callow swales and a drainage culvert under the new sidewalk that is proposed and get that water out of there.

Alderman Girard asked has this project ever been identified by Parks & Recreation as part of their playground account.

Mr. MacKenzie answered not that I am aware of.

Mr. Hastings stated yes there was a school improvement project for Green Acres School in 1988. A soccer field was put in, playground equipment was installed, and there were some drainage improvements were made then. It did not address anything in the area we are talking about.

Alderman Girard asked outside of the surveys that you have done, does anybody know whether or not Parks & Recreation or the School Department has ever identified drainage in that proposed area as a problem.

Mr. Hastings answered I am not aware of any formal listing of that as an issue, but I can certainly can tell when you walk out here after a rain storm you are walking in two inches of water on the pavement.

Alderman Pinard moved this item for discussion. Alderman Girard duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Girard asked to your knowledge the Parks & Recreation Department has not identified this area as a problem area. Not that I doubt what you are saying Eric, I just am trying to get a handle on why various City departments have not brought it to the attention of the Board for remedy through existing procedures.

Mr. MacKenzie answered I am not familiar with this particular portion of the site.

Alderman Girard asked would this be something that would normally fall under their playground line item in the CIP.

Mr. MacKenzie answered possibly but that is focused on...there is a schedule for improvements at schools. This year they will be working on Weston and Highland Goffs Falls Schools. Next year it is Webster and Northwest.

Alderman Girard asked is this potentially a chronic drain project that the Highway Department would handle.

Mr. MacKenzie answered typically chronic drains is on a street.

Alderman Pinard asked Mr. Houle what he knows about Green Acres School and when they built it and the water problem over there. I grew up over there and there has always been a problem. Are you aware of the problem with the playing field?

Mr. Houle answered not this one. You know we were there working and saw it happening. Certainly where the school is being constructed right now we know that it was a wet area and that is why we have all the drainage under the building but this is an area that nobody has mentioned. The engineer and some of us walking the property have seen that it is a poorly drained area.

Alderman Pinard stated but have you had any problem in the past at Green Acres with drainage.

Mr. Houle replied no.

Chairman Higgins stated we all want to do what is right and we would like to be able to do this but where we are looking at overages in our budget this is sort of a we would like to do it kind of a thing but I don't think we have the money. That is my feeling.

Mr. Hastings stated if you decide not to do the drainage improvements, it might be worth considering leaving the sidewalk tie which was intended to get kids from Greenwood Court down to the middle school. If you put the sidewalk in there without the drainage improvements, you will have a mess. You might want to consider taking that out.

Alderman Pinard moved to approve the change order for drainage at Green Acres at a cost of \$5,165. Alderman Girard duly seconded the motion.

Chairman Higgins called for a vote. School Committee Member Johnson being duly recorded in opposition, the motion carried.

Mr. Marinace addressed Item 22 of his agenda, add granite curb. He stated back at the very beginning of the project we had granite curbing everywhere and it got quite expensive and we were directed by the Committee to keep the cost under control on the budget. One of the things we did was change some of the granite, not all of it, to bituminous curb. Now we are looking at the option of putting the granite back in. We got a price of \$20,556. We are putting it on the table. If you would like to leave the bituminous where it is that is fine. If you would like to change it all to granite it is \$20,556.

School Committee Member Johnson moved to deny the change order for additional granite curbing. Alderman Girard duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Girard asked why would you (Mr. Marinace) bring this item to our attention and then just say whatever you want to do. Is there a justification or a reason?

Chairman Higgins answered he is not. It was one of our options and one of the ones we deleted way at the beginning. They give us a list of options and if you have the money you can have the best but right now we don't have the money.

Mr. Marinace stated I want you to have all the choices.

Alderman Girard stated I was under the impression that the change order process was to address unforeseen problems or opportunities in the development of the building not just hey you can spend \$100,000 on granite curbing if you want.

Mr. Houle stated I initiated some of this as it related to the playing field. As we saw the lower playing field develop we saw an opportunity for vehicles to just jump onto the field so we started out by saying lets take a look and this isn't going to work how about putting a guard rail up here. Then we started taking a look at the entire site. We probably should have started with the last change order because that drove this whole thing. We got ourselves looking at what it is we should be doing. We know that eventually someone is going to plow that asphalt curb out, but granite is a lot of money. We were concerned about having a playing field so close to the school and destroyed and everybody driving toward it is going

to see it so that changed and led us to this. It would be a nice thing to do if we had the money, but we just thought we would put it on the table.

Alderman Girard stated if you are worried about plows ruining the asphalt curb, would it be possible to put some sort of reflective posts along the perimeter of the curb like we have done in some areas of the City to alert the plow that it is there so the plow doesn't hit it.

Mr. Houle replied Parks & Recreation has stopped doing that.

Chairman Higgins called for a vote. School Committee Member Healy being duly recorded in opposition, the motion carried.

Mr. Marinace addressed Item 24 of his agenda, additional irrigation.

Chairman Higgins asked are we back to the irrigation from a year and a half ago.

Mr. Marinace answered this is additional irrigation. This is if you want to irrigate the rest of the grass areas around the building. It is \$16,827.00.

Chairman Higgins asked is this something that we can put aside or do we have to decide right away.

Mr. Marinace answered you can't put this aside because they are paving the walkways and they have to put sleeves in.

Mr. Houle stated we could provide sleeves under the pavement at a very modest cost.

Mr. Marinace stated it would be \$4,115 for just sleeves.

Alderman Girard stated first I can't believe a school with this kind of ground work was proposed without an irrigation system and secondly the last school that we opened in the City was Northwest Elementary and I don't know if anyone has ever gone by there in the spring, summer or fall but the lack of a sprinkler system has totally turned the grounds around that building into an eyesore to the neighborhood. If we are going to maintain these grass areas, we should have irrigation but I have to express my complete surprise that a project of this magnitude with that much ground to cover would not have anticipated sprinklers as part of the contract.

Chairman Higgins replied we did, but we took it out.

Alderman Girard moved to approve the change order for additional irrigation. School Committee Member Healy duly seconded the motion.

Chairman Higgins called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Mr. Marinace addressed Item 25 of his agenda, guard rail at the east end of Field "A". He pointed to the area on the chart and stated there is a parking lot on the side of the school and a play field right here. We are worried about cars driving from the parking lot onto the field. We thought we could solve the problem by putting a guard rail along here outside the parking area that would allow cars to park there and watch the game but they wouldn't be able to drive onto the field. If you don't put the guard rail in they probably will drive onto the field.

Alderman Girard moved to accept the change order for a guard rail at the east end of Field "A" for a cost of \$3,750.00. School Committee Member Healy duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Girard asked is this guard rail or other precautions around the field going to be able to prevent motorcycles and dirt bikes from getting on that field.

Mr. Marinace answered if motorcycles and dirt bikes want to get onto the field, they can cross that ditch and will have great fun doing that because they will get a jump.

Alderman Girard asked is there anything that can be done to discourage that. I think the greater concern is dirt bikes and things like that and not necessarily vehicles.

Mr. Marinace answered I think that dirt bikes are pretty hard to keep out because you need to have a pedestrian way and any dirt bike can go on a pedestrian way.

Chairman Higgins called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Mr. Marinace addressed Item 26 of his agenda, vertical curb and fence at the north end of Field "A". He stated I have a new price for you on this because you did not accept the granite curb change order. The price is now \$5,698.00 instead of \$2,398.00. We are just doing all of this by unit prices. We thought that the curb along here would keep vehicles from driving onto that field and going through that

ditch. The fence part of it would close the fence to the road so people couldn't drive in. We are just trying to close all the gaps.

School Committee Member Johnson moved to approve the change order for a vertical curb and fence at the north end of Field "A" at a cost of \$5,698.00. Alderman Pinard duly seconded the motion.

School Committee Member Johnson stated you said that the cost would change from \$2,398 to \$5,698 so it is going to cost us \$3,300 more but we are still going to save the \$20,000 from the granite curb so we are still about \$17,000 ahead.

Alderman Klock asked is there any way to look into for the pedestrian walkway you know those rotating guard things. I know that some schools that I have been to have that type of mechanism so there is no way that anything except people can get onto a field. Is that something that can be looked into?

Mr. Marinace stated there is one problem with that. This field has to be handicapped accessible and there is our handicapped entrance. Those turnstiles don't meet the ADA code because you can't get a wheelchair through them. It is a good idea and if you can get a wheelchair from the parking lot to the edge of the field I don't know how else you can keep a dirt bike out if they really want to get in.

Alderman Girard stated along that line of thought, rather than having those types of turnstiles could you have a chainlink revolving door sort of like the revolving doors going into buildings that are wide enough for handicapped accessibility. Could you do that on the field?

Mr. Marinace asked a custom design sort of thing.

Mr. Hastings stated one thing you might be able to do is you have got the guard rail now and that stops on either side of the handicapped access. You could have the wheelchairs and pedestrians make a 90 degree and then another 90 degree and put a chainlink fence around that corner to discourage the dirt bikes. They can still get in there but they will have to do it at a walking speed rather than flying.

Chairman Higgins called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Higgins addressed Item 10 of the agenda:

Jr. High School Tech Ed --

a) Project Summary Report

Mr. Houle asked that the Committee approve a contract with Frank Marinace for \$29,300 for the development of plans, specifications and contract administration for technical education in the three junior high schools, soon to be called middle schools. The Board of School Committee has reviewed these plans and these three tech ed centers will be identical to the new middle school.

Alderman Girard asked who were the other bidders.

Mr. Houle answered I don't recall. When we anticipated the tech ed project and the addition to Parkside, we advertised for architects for the middle school and Frank Marinace had the best price at that time. The Committee felt that Frank was the best architect in the State of NH and by far the most experienced. We also asked for proposals for tech ed and the addition to Parkside.

Alderman Pinard moved to approve the contract with Frank Marinace for \$29,300. School Committee Member Johnson duly seconded the motion.

Chairman Higgins called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Mr. Houle stated we anticipate this project being completed this Summer.

Chairman Higgins addressed Item 9 of the agenda:

ADA Accessibility/School Elevators--

a) Project Summary Report

b) Bid results

Mr. Matusziewski stated on Thursday we received bids for the elevator addition and renovations to create a toilet room at Highland Goffs Falls School. We received bids from eight contractors, all of whom were prequalified. The low bid was from Eclipse Construction in the amount of \$179,949.

Mr. Houle noted that the locker rooms at Central High School were done by Eclipse Construction. There is a problem associated with the lockers, but it is no reflection on Eclipse.

On motion of Alderman Girard, duly seconded by Alderman Klock, it was voted to approve the contract with Eclipse for the elevator and toilet room at Highland Goffs Falls for a total of \$179,949.00.

Alderman Girard stated I understand that several pending elevator projects in the schools have been shelved at your (Superintendent Tanguay) request and the Administrator's request because we are not sure what the priority ADA items we want to address in the buildings are. I do have some concern with these projects being held up.

Superintendent Tanguay answered I believe that we prioritized the elevators based on revenue funds. I am not holding up anything.

Alderman Girard stated if I am not mistaken this Committee, a couple of meetings ago, was presented with information that asked us...

Mr. Houle replied there was a SCIP meeting at one point in time and it was agreed to wait before making any recommendations relative to the ADA money and Chandler School. I think that Mr. MacKenzie recommended that we hold the elevators until the Chandler issue resolved itself because obviously that project would utilize a lot of ADA money.

Mr. MacKenzie stated I don't remember that. We had separately earmarked about \$200,000 to handle handicapped improvements at Easter Seal if necessary.

Mr. Houle stated Mr. Matusziewski had a contract for design, development and bidding of at least half a dozen and we asked him to hold on it.

Chairman Higgins stated that we will do the research and get back to Alderman Girard on that.

Superintendent Tanguay stated my recollection is that months ago we met with the Board and went over it and prioritized it but we only had certain available funds so we couldn't do a lot of the buildings.

Chairman Higgins addressed Item 5 of the agenda:

Central/West Heat & Ventilation Improvements --

- a) Project Summary Report
- b) Project Phasing
- c) Year 3 Bid

Mr. Houle stated I just passed out a memo WV Engineering Associates. If you go to page two of the memo under 1976 we see we did about \$1.5 million worth of work and it is outlining what we did at Central and what we did at West and in 1997 we did another \$1.2 million worth of work and it is outlined. To date the total is \$2.654 million. In all of the numbers you see, for the most part those are the results of recent bids that were received on Thursday of this past week. Basically, \$1 million has been earmarked and we are talking about providing mechanical ventilation and heat at Central High School in PA Auditorium and in the Music Department area below it and providing ventilation in the Auditorium at West. The heat was provided two years ago. Now it is just ventilation. It appears right now that we are above budget. We will be meeting with the architect, contractor and sub-contractors this week to review this and will probably be meeting with the SCIP Committee which consists of School Administration and Mr. MacKenzie and several others to see what kind of funding is available and what we will recommend to the Joint School Building Committee. The rest of it is informational. We continue to move towards the end of our \$7.5 million project to complete the work and if we look at it real close some of the work we are doing is architectural in addition to heating and ventilation.

Chairman Higgins addressed Item 6 of the agenda:

Central High School/Locker Room Improvements --

- a) Project Summary Report
- b) Architect's April 8, 1998 letter regarding lockers

Mr. Houle stated you may recall that two or three school committee people advised us of the condition of the lockers at Central High School. We have the architects response in the agenda and Tom Wallace is here if you have any questions. Tom had written his response basically saying that he believes the work was acceptable.

School Committee Member Healy stated Mr. Wallace I appreciate your response but I do not agree with it. I don't believe that the situation was handled in a manner that would correct the situation. If you go over and look at the lockers, the lockers are dented, they haven't been repaired but simply been painted over with a dull paint that doesn't even match. It is not what I would expect after paying close to \$1 million for the renovation of the lockers. I would expect things to be 100%, not 90%. I also would question is it normal practice that the actual sign-off or approval of a project actually gets handled by the building principal or is it someone from this Committee or should it go back before this Committee before it

actually gets signed off. I interpret this letter as you thinking that it is okay because the principal's assistants at the school gave it the okay. Am I correct?

Mr. Wallace answered for this project, that was pretty much my direction. If the school was happy with it, all the meeting I had throughout the entire design process were with the school personnel. When I did that inspection in January, the final inspection on the sign-off, the lockers were really one of only a number of things that we looked at and the school was much more concerned with a number of other items that needed to be corrected.

School Committee Member Healy stated back when the situation first began in the latter part of the fall I believe, it was my interpretation by Mr. Houle and by people representing the situation that the lockers were going to be completely replaced and that we were going to get 100% quality situation, not a situation where we are going in and looking at dented lockers as we still are now. If you go in there, those lockers are still dented.

Mr. Wallace replied there are quite a few lockers that still have marks on them, but it certainly looks a lot better than it looked when the damage was originally done.

School Committee Member Healy asked why do we have to accept that. We pay for a job to be and look 100%. Why are we accepting 90%? That is unacceptable to me. When I buy a new car I expect to get that car without any dings. Not to get dings and have the car painted. That is my opinion.

Alderman Girard asked who has final sign-off authority.

Mr. Houle answered this Committee has the authority. It is an issue and again I don't bring anything to this Committee unless it is a problem and I didn't anticipate that this was going to be a problem. What I did say to this Committee sometime back was that if the doors were damaged they were going to be replaced. A lot of doors were replaced and there are a number of doors with small ding marks still in them. Again, I knew the school people were happy and the architect was satisfied and signed off on it. I did not, and I guess the buck stops here, I did not follow up.

Alderman Girard asked do these dents or dings impair the function of the doors in any way. Are they flagrantly obvious? School Committee Member Healy seems to think that they were painted over with paint that does not match. What are we dealing with here? Is it ugly? Is it functional?

Mr. Houle answered we are dealing with a little bit of ugly and certainly in the interim some doors have been damaged far greater by locks that students placed on them. The damage that School Committee Member Healy is talking about is original.

School Committee Member Johnson stated I agree wholeheartedly with Dan. We paid for a perfect product and what we have is some repaired products. It is even mentioned in the letter that some of the damage done by the locks was caused by the way the damaged things came in. I am not satisfied. Like he said, the car is a perfect example. I wouldn't be satisfied. If I paid full price for something, I would want a perfect product. This is the City's money.

Chairman Higgins asked what is our next step. If we are not satisfied what is our next step because that is really the bottom line.

Mr. Houle answered we would meet and review this issue with Eclipse Construction. The contract has been paid. I would probably have to consult with the City Solicitor's Office.

Chairman Higgins stated I think we would like to go that route and take it one step further.

School Committee Member Johnson asked is there any possibility of having these lockers replaced with perfect lockers.

Mr. Houle answered all we are talking about is the doors. We had a number of them replaced already and probably there is an equal number that has the imperfections that we are talking about.

Mr. Wallace stated there were close to 400 doors that when they were trying to correct the original problem that they damaged. They replaced 150 doors.

School Committee Member Johnson stated so it sounds like we need 250 additional new doors so that we will have what we paid for.

Alderman Girard asked why did you (Mr. Wallace) sign off if the situation is as School Committee Member Healy represents. If the paint did not match, if the dings were that obvious, why would you sign off?

Mr. Wallace answered because I didn't feel it was that bad. I didn't think the paint was that bad. The dings weren't that bad and as I said the school was perfectly happy with that.

Alderman Girard stated your letter does indicate that the principal was satisfied with the work.

Mr. Wallace replied that is correct.

School Committee Member Healy stated other than the lockers, the locker rooms look great. They really do. I can see where the principals would say hey this is wonderful compared to what they had for years this is great. The project and the way that everything operated through the Summer was done very well. It is just the situation with the lockers and for those who haven't seen the lockers, it is as if somebody went in and took a nail set and pinged about five or six pings in each door in a small area on the locks.

Mr. Wallace stated I think it was primarily two pings in each door and what I think he was trying to do is the problem was that there is a hasp on the door and a hasp on the frame and the two weren't perfectly aligned and when some of the students tried to put locks on them they couldn't get them through because it was so wide so he was trying to realign them. He could have fixed it several other ways but he didn't and he went through one night and dinged 400 doors.

Superintendent Tanguay suggested that in the future the principal and school administrators do not sign off on any construction projects because they lack the expertise. They cannot, in most cases, read plans and specifications. I suggest that we keep out of it. I think you people have the expertise.

School Committee Member Healy stated to further comment on what the Superintendent has mentioned we ran into this situation a couple of years ago with the locker situation at Memorial and West with the architects and whoever dealing with the principals. It was my understanding that we had told them not to do that anymore. That we were going to have one person or a group that were going to direct them. I am not sure if that situation happened here.

Mr. Houle replied I am not sure I understood it that way because there was a problem with the architect on that job also.

Mr. Wallace stated my understanding was the exact opposite. It was get the principal's approval before you do anything.

Mr. Houle stated we can take whatever direction the Committee wants us to take but at Memorial and West the problem was that he had spoken to one principal and made assumptions as to what the other principal would have done.

Chairman Higgins stated that has been taken care of because you now have a team leader.

Mr. Houle asked who do you go to for final sign off in the school or even during the design phase. I think the design phase is more important than the final sign off.

Chairman Higgins answered I would like to offer that it definitely should not be the administrators.

Alderman Girard asked do the lockers look like they have been vandalized or do they look like they have been bumped coming off the assembly line.

Mr. Wallace answered it is pretty consistent. Every door it is the same thing. Vandalization wouldn't have done that. It isn't perfectly in the same spot but they are very close and it is obvious that somebody went through door by door with this thing.

Alderman Girard asked so it doesn't look like someone whacked it with a hammer.

Mr. Houle answered no and in low light you would have difficulty determining that there was a problem with the doors.

Chairman Higgins stated we need to know where we stand now. Do we have any recourse? If we don't, we don't. If we do, then we will take the next step.

Chairman Higgins addressed Item 7 of the agenda:

West High School/Special Ed Room 104 w/toilet rooms --

- a) Project Summary Report
- b) Architect's recommendation

Mr. Houle stated you may recall these two rooms, 104A and 104B as they are now known were originally part of the old gym area so before construction of this work began there is about a foot and a half or a foot drop from about six or seven feet from the wall that was filled in with wood framing and the entire area was covered with vinyl composition tile. The materials have worked. The wood had worked itself away from the concrete somewhat and the BCT tile has cracked in this area. There has been an attempt to repair it. We are all in agreement that this is

unacceptable. What is being proposed now is an accent strip made of rubber to cover that are and to bring the BCT tile back to it. I did speak to the acting principal today who agreed that this was acceptable.

Ms. Thompson asked a strip like on the floor here but wider.

Mr. Houle answered yes. I had a conversation with the architect and my inclination is to make it wider so we don't have any split tiles.

Chairman Higgins stated the room looks really nice except for that one glaring spot. As long as it looks good, go ahead and do it.

Ms. Thompson stated my other concern would be that it be smooth for people in wheelchairs or who are mobility impaired. To me that is number one and number two is how it looks.

Chairman Higgins addressed Item 8 of the agenda:

Memorial High School Science Lab and Other Improvements --

a) Project Summary Report

Mr. Matusziewski stated the bids will be received on Thursday, May 7 at Dick's office. A walk through by general contractors and primary sub-contractors is scheduled for Friday at 2:45 p.m. Proposals will be sought from general contractors as was discussed earlier in this Committee to accept proposals for two phases of work to be run both concurrently as well as successively so that the entire project may either be done this summer or be done this summer and next summer.

Chairman Higgins asked and that is how the specs are written.

Mr. Matusziewski answered yes. The project pretty well follows the template of Central and West. Each project is a little bit unique.

There being no further business to come before the committee, on motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by School Committee Member Johnson, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

4/20/98 Joint School Bldgs.

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Clerk of Committee