

## COMMITTEE ON JOINT SCHOOL BUILDINGS

**June 15, 1998**

**5:45 PM**

Chairman Higgins called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

**Present:** School Committee Members Higgins, Healy(late), Herbert(late),  
Aldermen Klock, Pinard, and Girard

**Messrs:** D. Houle, T. Brennan, F. Marinace, C. Annis

Mr. Annis noted that Mr. Herbert was not officially on the Committee yet. (Please see attached memo).

Chairman Higgins stated what I would like to do is take care of the one thing we have to vote on except for the middle school stuff. I would like to skip down to that so we can get it out of the way and if anybody has any questions about any of the other stuff, feel free to ask after we finish all this other business.

Chairman Higgins addressed Item 9 of the agenda:

Jr. High School Tech Ed

b) Award of Contract (see attached memo from R. Houle)

Mr. Houle stated the bids will be received for the Tech Ed improvements at the three junior high schools next week. The funding hasn't been established for this project yet. Basically these Tech Ed Centers will be identical to the one at the new middle school. What I am requesting is that I be authorized to move forward based on the funding authorization and approval of contracts by the SCIP Committee which is made up of the Planning Director, the Finance Director, the Superintendent of Schools, the Building Inspector and myself. Other than that, I would ask the Committee to consider holding a meeting shortly thereafter to renew the contracts and approve them.

Chairman Higgins asked this is strictly pending authorizations funding.

Mr. Houle answered correct.

Chairman Higgins asked so if you get authorization you can go ahead and award the bids.

Mr. Houle answered correct.

Aldermen Girard asked why has funding not been authorized.

Mr. Houle answered it has been authorized as part of the SCIP project.

Alderman Girard asked so there is money set aside in a CIP but it has not been allocated.

Mr. Houle answered right there is money in SCIP but it has not been allocated to this project.

Alderman Girard stated you have here in your letter that the project has been approved by the Board of School Committee. Do they have authority over the SCIP money?

Mr. Houle replied no. They need to approve the concept and the plan. That is why I inserted that in there and I believe they have. It is a project under their jurisdiction and they have got to approve the plans basically. They have approved the plans.

Alderman Girard asked so this is not a funding thing then.

Mr. Houle answered no it is not.

Alderman Girard moved to approve the request. Alderman Pinard duly seconded the motion. Chairman Higgins called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Higgins addressed Item 4 of the agenda:

Middle School --

c) Architect's Report (attached)

d) Alderman Rivard's Correspondence of 6/11/98 (attached)

Mr. Houle stated on your budget you will notice Frank is going to talk about spending more money. There is \$37,000+ left in contingency so you may want to keep that in mind as we go through it. The budget is on Page 4A.

Chairman Higgins stated we are down to the wire now. This is it.

Mr. Marinace stated we are down to the wire because the school will be done soon. That doesn't give us that much more time to spend money but there are seven items here. I would say that none of these things absolutely must be done. Absolutely to make the school work but these are all things that you asked for, you asked us to look at and the prices are as shown. They total \$65,000 and change and we only have \$37,000 and change left in contingency.

Chairman Higgins asked, Dick, did you suggest that we kind of go down the list by item.

Mr. Houle answered yes.

1. Entry Access Controls

Mr. Marinace stated the proximity readers are a system, a security system. We are going to put those on five doors at the middle school. The proximity readers would be at the three main entrances plus the two student entrances. It was recommended by the Police Department from day one and part of that would be a remote management system where you could program control access from a remote location.

Mr. Houle replied we can pass on the remote portion of it at this point in time.

Mr. Marinace stated okay that is \$656.00.

Mr. Houle replied that would be a city-wide system once we do it so there is no sense in doing that now.

Mr. Marinace stated then the number is \$21,685 without the remote.

2. Signage and room identification.

Mr. Marinace stated we had an allowance of \$10,000 in the general contract. It shows that allowance of \$10,000. With the granite sign that I showed you a couple of meetings ago that has both schools on it, we are \$5,600 over the allowance with the granite sign.

Alderman Girard asked did you take a look at the alternative materials that I had asked be looked at at the last meeting.

Mr. Marinace answered yes I sure did. If we go with the alternative materials which is a plywood sign, plywood painted on both sides...

Alderman Girard asked that is plywood up on the corner of Bridge and Mammoth.

Mr. Marinace answered yes. Obviously the plywood sign would be cheaper. Instead of being \$5,600 over the allowance, you would be \$1,216 under the allowance.

Alderman Girard asked so that sign with the alternative materials would cost how much then. Just so we have a comparison with the granite sign that you have factored in here.

Mr. Marinace asked what is \$5,689 plus \$1,216.

Mr. Houle answered \$6,905.

Mr. Marinace stated that is the difference.

Alderman Girard asked but the alternative materials don't cost \$6,905 do they.

Mr. Marinace answered no, that is the difference.

Alderman Girard asked so we can either be \$5,700 over budget or \$1,200 under budget.

Mr. Marinace answered right.

School Committee Member Healy stated also when we were looking at the signs, a description of the sign that you had brought in, there was a portion underneath which could be used for display, for lettering. How much would it be less that? I didn't think that was a very good idea.

Mr. Marinace replied it was already taken out. This price reflects the changes you wanted to make which is the two posts with the granite sign in-between.

School Committee Member Healy asked are there any alternatives in the way of granite other than less expensive other than going with two posts. There are different types of granite signs and maybe you might look at one that is less expensive.

Chairman Higgins stated that is a good point. What about that sign they just put up on the corner of Bridge and Elm? That granite block?

School Committee Member Healy replied that is probably pretty close to that.

Mr. Marinace stated there are all different kinds. Every little thing changes the cost. Remember the drawing, the big picture I showed you? That is what we priced and at that meeting we were instructed to get a price for the other signs, the plywood signs. Those are the only two prices I have. Otherwise we could have 100 different prices.

School Committee Member Healy stated there are many other types of signs. You don't have to go with granite. There are all kinds of illuminated signs.

Chairman Higgins stated I was thinking we could just go down the list and then prioritize them sort of like we did the CIP thing. We only have \$37,000+. Did you hear that, Dan? We only have \$37,000 left so we can't, it is impossible for us to do all of this as much as we want to.

3. Landscape slope at Green Acres.

Mr. Marinace stated that is the steep slope between Green Acres School and the new site. We have had a lot of sumac growing. That is where the steps were. We looked at all different alternatives. I put in here the most economical which is hydroseeding the slope. First of all preparing it, just stripping it and loaming it, hydroseeding and putting in irrigation which would be \$8,260. I don't know if the budget can afford to do anything.

Alderman Girard asked you have site preparation of \$5,365, Option A at \$891, Option B at \$5,566 and the Irrigation, Option C at \$2,004. My math does not add up to \$8,260. Which are you adding together?

Mr. Marinace answered that is right. The total add is for Options A and C.

Alderman Girard asked so the total add is site preparation plus A and C.

Mr. Marinace answered yes.

4. Fence at transformer.

Mr. Marinace stated we have a pretty large transformer in the back of the building and we don't have a fence around it. It was suggested that we might want to put

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chainlink fence with a gate around that transformer. We need the gate so they can service the transformer. We also priced as part of that adding some plantings along the, some bushes along the service entrance so people wouldn't be parking on the grass which they will if we don't put some bushes. That all together is \$4,051.

5. Shelving in Life Skills.

Mr. Marinace stated we have built-in peninsulas in the Life Skills Room and there is an opportunity to put in open shelving in the end of each of those peninsulas to give them a lot more storage space. That is \$1,892. That would be part of the built-in casework.

6. Fencing at Field A.

Mr. Marinace stated that was a result of the community meeting we had. They liked the idea suggested by the Police Department. They called it a gothic fence but the fence people call it a colonial picket fence. To run that all away around the field plus have stockade fence on the last two pieces of property that was requested is \$20,201.

Alderman Girard asked did you just say run it all the way around the field.

Mr. Marinace answered no, sorry, two sides. The long side and then along the short side.

Alderman Girard asked are the residences affected by every place that this fence is proposed to be.

Mr. Marinace answered yes.

Alderman Girard asked so there is no extra fencing.

Mr. Marinace answered no. That is all along property lines.

School Committee Member Healy asked how much did we budget for that cost because obviously we are going with the cedar and that has got to be more than chainlink and I thought that we had bought the chainlink so what are we doing with the chainlink.

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Mr. Marinace answered we had bought the chainlink unfortunately. This thing came up too late. We are using that chainlink, if you want to do it, in #7, add fence at the entrance road, 300 ft. of chainlink.

Alderman Girard asked why can't we add that chainlink around the transformer.

Mr. Marinace answered that price includes using the fence we have.

Alderman Girard asked around the transformer.

Mr. Marinace answered right.

Alderman Girard asked then what is the \$4,051 for if we already have the fence.

Mr. Marinace answered because you need a special gate to service the transformer. You have the gate, you have the labor and it has those shrubs all along the entrance.

Alderman Girard asked how much is the gate, how much are the shrubs.

Mr. Marinace answered the big part of that price is the gate.

Alderman Girard asked is it necessary to enclose the transformer.

Chairman Higgins answered it is not necessary but what Frank was saying is that it is close to the building and people will be parking there.

Mr. Marinace stated here is the breakdown. The fence and gate with an 8' gate, that is where a lot of the expense is, is \$1,299.

Alderman Girard asked 8' wide or 8' tall.

Mr. Marinace answered 8' wide gate.

Alderman Pinard asked did that go out to bid.

Mr. Marinace answered yes we got prices from CWS Fencing Company. The shrubbery, plantings along the receiving area to keep people from driving up the side there, is \$1,480 and part of that was plantings at the dumpster which is \$1,040 to shield the dumpster. If you add up all those things and add the contractor's overhead and profit, it ends up being \$4,051.

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Alderman Girard asked so there is another \$1,040 on top of the \$1,300 and \$1,480.

Chairman Higgins answered yes.

Alderman Girard asked and that is to shield the dumpster. Is there a fence around the dumpster?

Mr. Marinace answered no, there is no fence around the dumpster, a shield of shrubbery is what we are asking for.

Chairman Higgins stated we don't have to pick this, he is just giving us some options.

Mr. Houle stated in answer to Alderman Pinard's question, what the contractor does is he gets quotes from various people. So when you say bid, is it formally bid, no it is not formally bid.

Mr. Marinace stated I don't think you want a fence around the dumpster because the guys are very careless when they...it doesn't last.

Mr. Houle stated on the dumpster, I raised that. I asked them to bring in a number because as you drive down that little hill coming into the school you are going to be staring right at that dumpster.

Alderman Girard asked are shrubs going to fare any better than a fence.

Mr. Marinace answered it is only on one side.

Alderman Girard asked \$1,040 for shrubs on one side.

Chairman Higgins stated we don't have to do it.

Alderman Girard replied I understand that.

Chairman Higgins stated this is the hard part.

7. Add fence at entrance road.

Mr. Marinace stated we brought this up last time. This 300 ft. uses the chainlink that we bought.

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Chairman Higgins asked so the \$2,642 is for labor.

Mr. Marinace answered labor plus the setting the concrete down.

Alderman Girard asked can we get any kind of credit for any of that chainlink fence that we don't use.

Mr. Marinace answered no.

Alderman Girard asked, Mr. Houle, do you have any other place to use that leftover chainlink.

Mr. Houle answered yes, the architect has.

Alderman Girard stated no I don't mean here. I mean if we were to use all of the chainlink. Any other places in the City?

Mr. Houle stated there was a request from the Planning Director, it was just a coincidence, but I think they solved that problem. There was a house lot in town somewhere that they wanted to put a fence up around. I guess it got sold. I have no immediate need.

Alderman Girard asked how about to take care of our friend on Huntress Ave. there behind Parker Varney. The guy who has always got the stuff coming down from behind the school. I can't remember his name.

Chairman Higgins stated as far as that goes...

Alderman Girard interjected I know it is for another time.

Chairman Higgins stated I am sure we have use for it. We have a number of schools that have been looking for fences so I don't think...it is not going to go to waste. It is unfortunate that this came up after we bought it but we bought it and now we have to deal with it. What I would like to do is go down the list and have you give me your priorities and we will work it that way. Majority rules.

Alderman Klock stated well obviously the security system would be number one to stay. I think we can take Dick's advice and not add the remote and take that \$656 out.

Alderman Pinard stated what worries me is the transformer. That should be fenced in.

Chairman Higgins asked do you want that to be your first priority.

Alderman Pinard answered yes. If OSHA comes around and sees that we don't have that, we will be in trouble. When it comes to the fencing, I don't know. It sounds like an awful lot of money.

Chairman Higgins stated well we don't have a choice. We promised that to those neighbors.

Alderman Pinard stated I thought it was go another way beside the way that we are doing it now. That is why I mentioned bid because I thought you would go out to maybe three or four fence companies that we have in our locality.

Chairman Higgins asked is that what you did, Frank. Did you get a couple of prices on that fence?

Mr. Marinace answered yes we shopped for the fence.

Alderman Pinard stated that is an awful lot of money and as far as the sign, we are building a school that is worth an awful lot of money and we want it as a show piece and I think a piece of plywood out there would be good for six months to a year and if we have gone this far, I think we should be able to pick out the color granite that we need and have something that is going to look halfway decent.

Chairman Higgins asked do you want that to be your number two pick.

Alderman Pinard answered yes.

School Committee Member Healy asked we have \$37,000+.

Chairman Higgins answered yes.

School Committee Member Healy answered the entry access controls would be one of my first picks. We need to secure that school and do it the best possible way we can. Also, we did promise those people that we would take care of that situation with the fencing when we first started this whole project years ago when these people came around and had a lot of concerns and we said we would address your concerns and I think we ought to keep to our word on that. So, I just spent the money.

Alderman Girard stated I know we said we would help the neighbors with a fence but I didn't expect it was going to be \$20,000 worth of fence and I wonder whether or not, to follow-up on what Aldermen Pinard was saying, rather than having the contractor go and find a subcontractor I don't know whether or not the City can do it directly so we are not paying the contractor his profit margin on top of the price that the subcontractor is going to charge the contractor. Do you see what I mean? If we cut out the middleman there has got to be something there. Now I for one don't have a problem ditching the sign at this point, the granite sign. You know when you say it is granite versus plywood it sounds awful but I would encourage anyone to take a look at the sign that has been up for years at the corner of Bridge and Mammoth and I don't think that sign is at all unattractive, unsightly, poorly maintained or anything else. You know there is a big difference between being \$5,700 over budget in that item and \$1,200 under budget. I know that while it is not terribly, you know it is not exactly how we would want it to look and there may be some issues with access at this point, a lot of that additional shrubbery that we are talking about around the fence and the transformer and some other things I would ditch. The additional shelving in the Life Skills area may be nice but I am sure we can find a less expensive way to handle that.

Chairman Higgins asked what do you want your number one pick to be.

Alderman Girard answered my number one pick, I can't say that I have one. There are just a number of things here that I think we can do without.

Chairman Higgins asked well give me your number one pick.

Alderman Girard answered I will pick my plywood sign, Madame Chair.

Alderman Klock stated maybe it is not obvious, but it is obvious to me that we have to have a security system in the school and if we already promised the fence to some degree we spent the money and what happens to all of the other things.

Chairman Higgins stated they don't get done.

Alderman Klock stated so there is no sign, there is no fence around the transformer.

Chairman Higgins stated well it is possible that we could do that sometime in the future but that has not been our experience but then again we have never built a \$9 million school. We have never built a middle school. This is a tough choice.

School Committee Member Herbert asked what is wrong with Alderman Girard's suggestion to have the City do this fence. I mean does everything in here have to be done to of this budget for the school.

Chairman Higgins answered well yes and no.

Alderman Girard stated my suggestion was not necessarily to have the City put the fence in, my suggestion was to try to find a way for the City to contract directly with a fence contractor so that they are cutting out all of the mark-ups that would go to the contractor, the architect and everybody else to reduce the price of that fence which would probably entail Mr. Houle having to solicit bids for that fence directly. I think on a lot of these things if the City were going directly out for these services we would not be paying those middleman mark-ups for lack of a better term. That is one way to push the costs down and try to get some more of this stuff done.

Chairman Higgins asked, Dick, what do you think.

Mr. Houle answered that is why I walked over to talk to the contractor. I think we can save on that item between \$2,000 and \$3,000. The mark-up is \$1,700 but again I also know working with another abutter trying to get a small piece of fence up that these guys are very busy this summer. All of the fence people are busy.

Alderman Girard asked do you know of any other, I realize that the neighbors and the Police Department have come to agreement on this fence but that is a \$20,000 pill I wasn't prepared to swallow. It is quite a jump from what was there before. Are there any other alternatives that may be less expensive? Perhaps we could prevail upon the neighbors to actually paint the fence. Even if it is not painted, it is a substantial improvement over the chainlink they were going to get. Would it be an affront to say hey here is your fence, we can't afford to pay it?

Chairman Higgins asked do you have the letter from Alderman Rivard.

Mr. Houle answered it is in your packet.

Alderman Girard stated you are talking about priorities, Madame Chair. In all seriousness, the landscaping of that slope with Option A and Option C would probably be what I would like to see, if for no other reason than the experience that the west side neighborhood experienced with Northwest Elementary whose landscaping never got done the right way and honest to God it was a beautiful building on a blighted lot and it was awful to the neighborhood and it still is. I

don't know why we bother to landscape these things if we are not going to irrigate them.

Chairman Higgins stated this is irrigated. So, basically this is his, all right if you look at Alderman Rivard's memo, they are just recommending to our Committee that a 6' cedar gothic fence painted white on both sides be put along their property. This Committee can say yes we will give you your fence but we can't afford to paint it. This is their recommendation.

Alderman Girard asked, Mr. Houle, what would the cost of this fencing be if instead of putting those two sections of stockade fence we did the cedar gothic throughout the whole thing.

Mr. Houle answered the neighbor on the corner...the short answer is I don't know. Frank, do you think the gothic is cheaper than the stockade or vice versa?

Mr. Marinace replied the stockade is more expensive. It is \$7.50 a lineal foot more.

Alderman Girard asked so if we were to go with the cedar gothic throughout, how much, what is the lineal footage of the stockade fence and how much would we save by doing the cedar gothic throughout? How many lineal feet is it, Mr. Marinace?

Mr. Marinace answered 192.

Alderman Girard stated 192 x 7.50.

Chairman Higgins asked is it two neighbors or the one.

Mr. Marinace answered the first two.

Chairman Higgins stated okay there are two neighbors. I am just trying to offer a solution. How do you think they would feel about putting in the difference? In other words, this is how much money we have. This is what we can afford. If you want something different...

Asst. Superintendent Brennan replied I don't think neighbor number one will go for that.

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Mr. Houle stated he (Mr. Sands) was very adamant about what he wanted and he felt the City owed him and his next door neighbor just hopped on. He was the most vocal.

Chairman Higgins asked that was the gentleman that came to our meeting.

Mr. Houle answered yes, Mr. Sands.

Alderman Pinard stated it seems to me that I met with those people and I got Alderman Rivard involved and the gentleman on the corner, it seems to me that he and a few others said that at the beginning of school construction they were told that they were going to have a fence. Cost was never brought up and the people there don't care about the cost. All they want is their privacy. It is as simple as that. It is pretty hard if you back away.

Chairman Higgins stated we are not backing away from the fence but I think the understanding was always that we were going to put up a fence. We didn't say what kind of fence we were going to put up. I think they are just assuming that we would put up stockade.

Alderman Girard stated that only saves \$143.90 by doing the cedar gothic throughout instead of the stockade.

Chairman Higgins asked do you think that owner would be willing to pay \$143 dollars. Is that what you are saying?

Alderman Girard answered no my suggestion was going to be, if the savings were significant enough, that we do the cedar gothic throughout but if the difference in lineal foot price is \$7.50 and you have 192. You take 192 and multiply it by \$7.50, actually I am wrong, it is \$1,439. Sorry.

Chairman Higgins stated before this runs away with us, what I have is access control. Access control would be my number one pick so three of us are for that. We have two votes for the signage and room identification. We have one vote for the fence at the transformer.

School Committee Member Herbert stated and a mystery vote over here.

Chairman Higgins replied according to the Mayor's Office, you are not officially on the Committee.

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Mr. Annis stated I am almost positive that you are going to be on the Committee but the Mayor hasn't actually done it yet so I would say until then...

School Committee Member Herbert stated I don't think that is very good.

Alderman Girard stated I would be more than happy to allow Mr. Herbert to participate as a member of the Committee, but in as much as he hasn't been officially appointed by the Mayor, I would say that participation would stop short of a vote.

School Committee Member Herbert stated that is fine. I didn't know that I wasn't officially on it when I said that. I thought there was a misunderstanding. I haven't heard anything here that I disagree with. Access control has got to be number one. The only comment I have is on the fence. The gentleman is getting a fence and I think his fence should be like everybody else's fence. I know he is adamant about it, but...

Alderman Girard stated with the prices we have here, if you take that \$1,439 subtract it from the \$20,201 and you subtract the painting of \$2,693, you come up with a fence total of \$16,069 which buys us just under four grand.

Chairman Higgins stated that buys us the access control and it buys the fence and then we are out of money.

Alderman Girard stated and if Mr. Houle can get some direct pricing from a fencing contractor that beats the \$16,069 then that is more money that we can take a look at.

Chairman Higgins asked, Frank, is this going to be a continuous fence.

Mr. Marinace answered yes.

Chairman Higgins asked well don't you think it will look kind of funny if you have got two people with a stockade fence and everybody else with this other type of fence.

Mr. Marinace answered of course.

Alderman Girard stated it is also not fair. He may be adamant but to give one stockade and one cedar, I mean they could all...that is not fair.

Mr. Marinace stated he (Mr. Sands) stated that he was going to put up a stockade fence inside of whatever we put up. That is why we just said lets give him stockade.

Alderman Girard asked well why would we spend another \$1,500 that we don't need to spend. If he is going to put up stockade behind whatever we put up, then why are we going to put up a stockade for him?

Mr. Houle asked if you agree to the fence and you agree that everybody gets treated the same, if he were willing to pay, if they were willing to pay the additional money, would the Committee have a problem.

Alderman Girard answered yes.

School Committee Member Herbert stated no if he wants to pay extra for the stockade.

Alderman Girard stated but all he is going to do is pay that additional \$1,400. If everyone were to do that along the horn, well I suppose...

Chairman Higgins replied they can do it anyway. If they want to do that. Mr. Healy, what we have come up with for the fence is that, let me make sure I understand what everybody wants, we will put up the picket fence for everybody but we don't have the money to paint it and the two neighbors or the two houses that want the stockade fence will either pay for the upgrade or, we understand from the architect that they are going to put a stockade fence inside whatever we put up anyway, so, is that the Committee's recommendation.

School Committee Member Healy asked so we are going to put up the stockade instead of the gothic.

Chairman Higgins answered no we are going to put up the gothic all along. Otherwise what you will have is two stockades and the rest gothic. See what I mean?

Alderman Girard commented they might want to consider staining the fence rather than painting it.

Mr. Houle stated it was a white stain. Also, I thought I heard that if people want to pay extra for the stockade we would accommodate them and they would pay the difference up front.

Alderman Girard stated so the Committee's decision would be to put the gothic fence up around the entire area. If the neighbors, under this scheme, that would get stockade if they paid the difference they may and Mr. Houle will try to go out and get direct pricing for this fencing to see if we can't knock it down and the neighbors are going to paint it.

School Committee Member Healy asked is that allowing everyone the same type of fence or they are going to have a choice. I am not clear. I think it all should be the same. I don't want to sit in the back and see they have one type of fence, they have another type of fence, they are painting it and this one is not painting it. It is not going to look very pleasant.

Alderman Klock stated and they said that they are going to put up their own fence anyway.

Chairman Higgins replied the one gentleman.

Alderman Girard stated I would be happy to take Mr. Healy's suggestion that we put gothic fence throughout.

Chairman Higgins stated I agree.

Alderman Pinard stated I agree.

Alderman Girard stated I still don't think we can afford to paint it though.

Alderman Klock stated I think it should be a community, get the community together. All have a painting party and get out there and paint.

School Committee Member Healy stated I am not clear what the difference is between the gothic fence and the stockade fence. It thought it was the same, except the way the top was.

Mr. Marinace showed a picture.

Alderman Girard stated it is going to cost them a lot less to paint it themselves then it is going to cost the City. It is not like we are pawning off \$2,700 of painting off on the residents. It is City pricing with labor and everything else.

Chairman Higgins stated this is the toughest decision that we probably have to make and we have no more money. This is what we have to do. We have to make tough choices and not everybody is going to like it.

School Committee Member Healy stated I don't think this gothic fence is going to last.

Chairman Higgins stated I don't think the stockade fence is going to last either.

School Committee Member Healy stated with the slats and stuff kids are going to be kicking that and breaking it.

Alderman Girard stated the truth of the matter is that the only fence that is probably going to have any real durability there is the chainlink which the neighbors are unanimously opposed to.

School Committee Member Healy stated originally and I might be wrong but I thought we were talking about some type of fencing years ago and we were telling them that we were going to put shrubbery.

Chairman Higgins replied yes, in fact you mentioned that if I remember correctly.

Alderman Girard stated the City Police are anti-shrub because it causes them hide and seek problems.

Alderman Pinard stated that was discussed, shrubs and fence.

Chairman Higgins asked they talked about that. What did they say?

Asst. Superintendent Brennan answered it was an issue around security. The Police are very concerned about that.

School Committee Member Healy stated perhaps chainlink and when you put in the shrubbery you place them far enough apart so you can still see through and it gives them semi-privacy.

Asst. Superintendent Brennan stated that was brought up at the meeting.

Alderman Girard asked what did the neighbors have to say about that.

Asst. Superintendent Brennan stated they didn't want that.

Chairman Higgins stated so it is their choice. This is their choice.

Alderman Girard stated as nice as I would like to be to the neighbors, if we were going to do everything that every neighbor wanted there we probably would not be stopping at \$65,000.

Chairman Higgins replied I know but how often do you get a school built in your backyard.

School Committee Member Healy stated I think that we should do the very best we can to accommodate these neighbors. Only because being a part of this from the very beginning, these neighbors came out from the start with all kinds of concerns and complaints and we, I am not going to say we asked them, but we pretty much listened and we said yes we are going to take care of this, we are going to do this, we are going to do that for you. We are building this school in your backyard. I think we gave them our word and we should take care of them.

Alderman Girard stated okay, but here is the problem. Now you are looking at, if you do these changes and you don't do anything else, you are not going to have any kind of sign, regardless of what it is made out of, you are not going to have any kind of room identification and I fail to see why it is going to cost \$6,000 to put numbers on the doors, and building entrance signs won't exist.

Mr. Marinace replied you have some wrong information there. The signage and room identification you have. There is an allowance in the contract. If you choose to go with the plywood sign, you will save \$1,200. You will still get the plywood sign and you will still get room identification.

Alderman Girard asked so which of these items are above budget that we have to allocate the \$37,000 to.

Mr. Marinace answered they are all over budget with the granite sign. It is not complicated. We have a \$10,000 allowance. See #2, we have \$10,000 to spend. With the granite sign it will cost \$15,000+.

Alderman Girard asked so that \$15,000 is in the \$65,000 or the \$5,000 over the \$10,000 is in the \$65,000.

Mr. Marinace answered \$5,600.

Chairman Higgins replied the \$5,600 is within the \$65,000. The \$10,000 is out.

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Alderman Girard moved to use the alternative signage rather than the granite. We can't do it within budget and we are trying to figure out how we are going to do this other stuff.

Chairman Higgins stated wait a minute, you are jumping around. Lets do one thing at a time. Lets talk about the fencing. Are we in agreement on the fencing?

Alderman Pinard moved to approve change order #6 to install a 6' cedar colonial picket fence around Field A, unpainted.

Alderman Girard stated the number for the fence before Mr. Houle goes and makes a direct solicitation is \$16,069.

Alderman Girard duly seconded the motion.

School Committee Member Healy asked for clarification of his motion. That was to go with the...

Chairman Higgins answered to put up the gothic and we are not painting it.

Alderman Klock stated we are not painting it and we are not going to give neighbors discretion.

Chairman Higgins stated this is what you get. You get the gothic.

Alderman Girard stated part of that motion is for Mr. Houle to go take a look at getting direct pricing.

Chairman Higgins replied there is no question about that. It goes without saying.

School Committee Member Healy stated we if don't paint it and this neighbor paints his red and this one paints it white and it ends up like a patchwork quilt.

Mr. Houle replied it is my understanding that it would be the City's fence. Nobody is going to paint it.

Alderman Klock asked have we decided on the two things that we are definitely going to go with.

Chairman Higgins answered no we are talking about the fence right now and Alderman Girard just moved the question so lets take a vote.

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

Chairman Higgins stated the next thing we have the most votes on is the access entry controls. That comes to about \$21,000.

Mr. Marinace replied \$21,685.

Chairman Higgins stated less the \$656.

Mr. Marinace replied no it is already broken out.

Alderman Pinard moved to approve change order #1 to install entry access controls for a total of \$21,685. Alderman Girard duly seconded the motion. Chairman Higgins called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Girard stated \$37,754 is what we just spent assuming Mr. Houle can't come back with better prices.

Mr. Marinace stated you still have to give me direction on #2.

Chairman Higgins stated lets talk about the sign. We have \$10,000 to spend. I, for one, am not for a plywood sign. There is no way we are putting up a plywood sign for a \$9 million school. No offense, Alderman Girard.

Alderman Pinard stated how many of you, I don't think too many of you have been here long enough or are old enough to remember what the Green Acres site was way back in the 1930's. It was a farm, a dairy farm. It was the Green Acre Farm. It was the Green Acre Ice Cream stand and I lived through part of that era. I met one of the gentleman that was at one of our meetings who wanted to call the school the Lovering School. Does that ring a bell with anybody? I went to his house last week and he gave me a postcard. I had it blown up but I didn't bring it. It showed the whole layout of where the house was and the barn and the silo and all of the little garages that they had. At the end was the landmark of the Green Acre Farm, a milk bottle. I have CLD making a drawing of the milk bottle on scale. I mentioned to Asst. Superintendent Brennan and a few others that I had the picture of it blown up and I never thought of bringing it tonight. It looks like I might have somebody to donate the milk bottle and build it as such. Inscribed on it will be Green Acres School and whatever we can decide once it is built. If I remember correctly in my younger days, the bottle stood maybe 10' - 12' high and it was a landmark. I was trying to keep it a secret to bring it up later down the

road but since we are all fighting for signs, I think that it would be nice for the family to have that because originally it was the Lovering Farm. I am bringing it to your attention. Please let me go with this a little further and I will most likely have everything in tact, drawing and all, by the next meeting.

Alderman Girard asked what is it going to be made out of.

Alderman Pinard answered the School of Technology is interested in having his kids build it.

Alderman Girard asked what are they going to make it out of.

Alderman Pinard answered wood. Most likely wood. You can't have it out of cement because you wouldn't be able to move it.

Chairman Higgins asked how much time do we have to make this decision.

Mr. Marinace answered we have to release the room identification and the signs but if you do that you are well within your allowance. Why don't you let us do that and then you can do whatever you want with the other sign later?

Alderman Girard moved to approve change order #2 for the room identification and building entrance signs for a total of \$6,873. Alderman Pinard duly seconded the motion. Chairman Higgins called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Girard stated on the sign, while I have been beat up here for the audacity to propose a plywood sign and, again, I would strongly suggest that everyone take a look at that sign at the corner but the material and I am not opposed to the milk bottle, Alderman, if you can pull that off more power to you but why are we going to do the milk bottle out of wood but be dead set against doing another type of sign out of wood. Is it because the word ply is in front of it? I mean wood is wood whether it is a milk bottle or a square. I don't care what it is. We don't have the money in the budget to do a granite sign, much as I would like to so what are our options.

Alderman Pinard asked where are you going to get the money for the sign you want to build.

Alderman Girard answered it is in the budget. We can do it within the budget that has already been allocated.

Alderman Pinard stated but I might be able to have somebody donate this whole thing.

Alderman Girard replied please do. I don't have a problem with you getting the sign donated. I don't have a problem with it shaped like a milk bottle. I don't have a problem with it at all, but if we are going to pick on me because I think we should go with the sign in the budget, then...

Chairman Higgins interjected that is enough. Okay.

School Committee Member Healy stated I still like the granite sign and I think that we should instruct those powers that be to go back and talk with the granite people and see if they can't bring down that price. Bring the dimensions of your granite smaller. Instead of going maybe with a 10", go with a 6" and you can cut down the cost on that probably quite a bit and lower the size and you could probably be within your budget.

Chairman Higgins stated why don't we instruct Frank to look at what he can do with \$10,000.

Mr. Marinace replied \$3,000 left. I will come back with a \$3,000 sign and you will still be within your budget. I will see what I can get for \$3,000.

Mr. Houle stated if the intent is to try to go with a granite sign then why don't you just instruct us to work out whatever we can do.

Alderman Girard stated just a reminder of a suggestion made at a past meeting. The Highway Department does have granite that it has pulled up from other curbs and stuff that may be of some use. It is worth taking a look at.

School Committee Member Healy stated I don't know if it is conflict of interest, but I can provide a piece of granite for cost.

Chairman Higgins asked Mr. Marinace to talk to Mr. Healy.

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

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee

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