

## COMMITTEE ON JOINT SCHOOL BUILDINGS

**September 21, 1998**

**6:30 PM**

Chairman Higgins called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

**Present:** Aldermen Pinard, Klock, School Committee Members Higgins, Healy, Hebert (late)

**Absent:** Alderman Girard

**Messrs:** D. Houle, B. Albert, D. O'Shea, F. Matuszewski

Chairman Higgins addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Minutes of meeting held August 31, 1998.

On motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by School Committee Member Healy, it was voted to approve and accept the minutes.

Chairman Higgins addressed Item 4 of the agenda:

Henry J. McLaughlin Jr. Middle School --

Mr. Marinace reviewed the change order items. The first item being the Security System. They had to change the panic hardware which affected four sets of double doors. The bars on the doors will be slightly different. To change them to match it would cost \$6,926.

Alderman Pinard asked Principal Albert if he has seen the hardware and if he has any problems with it.

Mr. Albert answered I have seen it and I can live with it. They are functionally similar and I can't see spending another \$3,463 just so they match exactly.

Mr. Marinace addressed the second change order regarding Green Acres drainage. He noted that there was a drop on the playground and for safety reasons this should be filled in. They are also going to put in two more catch basins for a cost of \$5,143.

Chairman Higgins asked where is this money coming from.

Mr. Houle answered there is a balance of \$54,160 in contingency. If you look at line 92, PBS Punch List, I have already committed \$2,000 to correct the work to the Sidell property at Mammoth Road. Everything on this list of change orders is doable.

Mr. Marinace addressed the third change order for fencing at Field A. The current price for a cedar colonial picket fence, 6' high and stained white on both sides is \$27,477.

School Committee Member Healy stated I thought this was taken care of at our last meeting.

Mr. Houle answered we didn't have the final bid. We didn't have a final number.

School Committee Member Healy stated I thought the fence wasn't going to be painted.

Chairman Higgins replied if we didn't have enough money we weren't going to paint it.

Chairman Higgins asked, Dick, was this the original bid.

Mr. Houle answered the original bid was \$18,888 unpainted and \$35,000 for painted. The fence sections have gone up about \$3 per section. The contractor tried to change his bid again. This number is the best we can do. My sense is that this is what the Committee promised the abutters. It should be done by October 30 barring an unforeseen weather problems.

Alderman Pinard asked when is the dedication of the school scheduled for.

Mr. Albert answered that they were looking at some dates in the middle of October.

School Committee Member Healy stated I think that is purely an administration decision. Have you been in discussion with the Superintendent?

Mr. Albert replied not recently.

Chairman Higgins asked can they get the fence done sooner.

Mr. Houle answered no.

Mr. Marinace addressed the fourth change order to add the name of the school to the exterior of the building at the front entrance for \$1,158. The fifth change order for the traffic pattern modifications will be less than \$1,000.

School Committee Member Healy asked about the changes made for the new traffic pattern. He wanted to know if, once the school is at capacity, they will be able to revert to the original traffic pattern without it costing a lot of money.

Mr. Marinace replied yes, it would just be a matter of changing the signage.

Mr. Marinace addressed the sixth change order regarding the temporary telephone system, noting that the cost will be less than \$1,000. Also, there is a new change order item that just came in. The ADA people have visited the school and interpreted the code as meaning that everything has to be accessible. This means that they need to put some more grab bars in the bathrooms for a cost of less than \$600.

Alderman Klock asked can that be phased in.

Mr. Marinace answered yes, but we might as well do it now while we have the money.

Chairman Higgins stated it is in our best interested to do that now.

Mr. Marinace stated that the original hardware plan was done so that you could lock off parts of the building. There is one stairwell that does not have locking hardware. To change this, it will cost about \$600. This is needed to make the building secure. The last new change order is to purchase or lease a transformer.

Mr. Houle stated the purchase price would pay for the lease in five and a half years. He recommended that we purchase it.

Alderman Pinard asked is that the same transformer that we talked about fencing in.

Mr. Marinace answered yes.

Mr. Marinace stated if all of these change orders are approved, the cost will be \$47,690.

Chairman Higgins asked what do you anticipate we will need.

Mr. Marinace answered I think we are near the end of the road here.

School Committee Member Hebert asked is the money coming out of contingency.

Mr. Marinace answered yes.

School Committee Member Hebert asked if we were planning on fencing in the transformer now with the extra money.

Mr. Marinace replied that we should wait until we are 100% done in case there is something else we need the money for.

Alderman Pinard asked if there was any extra fencing available.

Mr. Houle answered we have used all of it in the extension of the entrance way.

School Committee Member Hebert asked about the landscaping work that we talked about previously and whether or not that could be done.

Mr. Marinace asked are you talking about the landscaping to hide the dumpster and the banking.

School Committee Member Hebert answered yes. Will we be going back to those items if we have money left?

Mr. Houle replied yes it is up to this Committee to close out the project.

On motion of School Committee Member Hebert, duly seconded by Alderman Klock, it was voted to approve all of the change orders and to purchase the transformer.

Mr. Marinace addressed a handout regarding the general contractor retainage. He noted that we are getting close to the end of the project and that we are holding 8.2%.

Chairman Higgins asked what was the total retainage.

Mr. Marinace answered we started off holding 10%.

Chairman Higgins asked isn't it common practice to release the retainage once the project is complete.

Mr. Marinace answered we are recommending that you not release it yet.

Mr. Houle stated we still have a few areas of concern, i.e. the playing fields, the cafeteria floor, the bathroom floors and other minor items.

Chairman Higgins asked does the \$211,600 cover it.

Mr. Houle answered it more than covers it. The contractor has asked for substantially more than that. I feel that the Committee is protected with this amount.

On motion of School Committee Member Healy, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to reduce the retainage to \$211,600.

Chairman Higgins addressed Item 9 of the agenda:

Jr. High School Tech Ed

Mr. Marinace stated that there was a little bit of confusion on the numbers at the last meeting. He went on to explain the handout.

School Committee Member Hebert asked about the electrical drops and why they were deleted.

Mr. Marinace answered due to a curriculum change, they were no longer needed.

Mr. Marinace noted that the handout shows what was approved last time. The new total is correct and the job is finished.

Mr. Houle stated that it amounts to \$649.80 more than previously approved by this Committee.

On motion of School Committee Member Hebert, duly seconded by School Committee Member Healy, it was voted to approve the increase.

Mr. Marinace stated that at Southside only, they have a machine that is a spot welder. They have had discussions with Tom Brennan regarding the fact that this machine shouldn't be used without the appropriate exhaust. They are recommending installation of an exhaust grill at a cost of \$2,046. This is a safety issue.

Alderman Pinard moved to approve the \$2,046 for the exhaust grill. School Committee Member Healy duly seconded the motion.

Chairman Higgins stated I brought this up at the last School Board meeting. If we are doing it at Southside, shouldn't we be doing it at the other schools? They are teaching welding at this school, but not at the others.

Mr. O'Shea stated I have discussed this with Mr. Houle and others and welding is not part of the middle school curriculum.

9/21/98 Joint School Bldgs.

6

School Committee Member Healy stated we are talking about spot welding in metal shop. Is it the Administration's recommendation to leave the machine there?

Mr. Marinace replied yes.

Chairman Higgins stated it is not our decision. It is a curriculum issue. If they decide they are going to a standard curriculum, can they take it out without any cost?

Mr. Marinace answered it is not an issue. The exhaust grill can stay there.

Mr. Houle stated we were under the assumption that the curriculum would be standardized for all schools. What happened was the floors were in tough shape so we put in tile and the spot welder will take a toll on the new floor. I am not sure we would have gone that route if we had known that this machine was going to stay.

Chairman Higgins asked is it a safety issue.

Mr. Houle answered it is an issue for the School Board.

School Committee Member Hebert stated I don't think the instructor is going to let anyone use the machine if he thinks it is dangerous.

Chairman Higgins called for a vote on the motion to approve the money for installation of an exhaust grill in the Southside Tech. Ed. room. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Higgins addressed Item 10 of the agenda:

#### Parkside Jr. High School Addition

Mr. Marinace stated we have a revised time schedule on this project. We plan on receiving bids on October 27. We are asking that you change the date of your October meeting so that we can award the contract after receipt of the bids as we are on a tight time schedule for this project.

Chairman Higgins asked if anyone objected to changing the meeting date for October. There were no objections.

Chairman Higgins addressed Item 5 of the agenda:

#### Central/West Heat & Ventilation Improvements --

9/21/98 Joint School Bldgs.

7

Mr. Houle stated everything is on schedule.

Chairman Higgins addressed Item 6 of the agenda:

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

Alderman Klock asked what did they do to the Special Ed Room.

Mr. Houle explained the changes that took place in the flooring and the problems that they are experiencing. He noted that they are holding \$5,316 and there is also a performance bond.

Chairman Higgins addressed Item 7 of the agenda:

Memorial High School Science Lab and Other Improvements

Mr. Matuszewski stated the project is being finished up as we speak. The casework in the Science Lab has been installed. The electrical work was completed last Friday. The balance of the work will be completed by the end of this week. The casework has been completed in the Music Room. They are still working on finishing the tables for the Art Room which should be done by Thursday. They are also addressing some punch list items that will be completed by Thursday. This project started out at \$935,000 and was elevated to \$955,155. the work looks good.

Chairman Higgins stated I noticed that you (Dick Houle) anticipate more SCIP money.

Mr. Houle replied yes, we haven't met for awhile but I do anticipate getting some more money.

Chairman Higgins asked so this project should be completed by the end of the week.

Mr. Matuszewski answered yes.

Chairman Higgins addressed Item 8 of the agenda:

Highland Goffs Falls School Elevator

Mr. Matuszewski stated the guy who is supposed to come in and make sure the elevator lands properly has been in. The State Inspector is due in on 9/23. The work looks good. There is a minor punch list to rereview. We are holding a 10% retainage.

Chairman Higgins addressed Item 11 of the agenda:

Central High School Locker Room Improvements

Mr. Houle noted that he checked with the City Solicitor's Office and they are preparing a response to the inquiry made last month.

Mr. Houle stated that beginning next month he will be reporting on the Noresco contract. They have begun the light retrofitting in some of the schools.

Chairman Higgins requested that Ron Ludwig of Parks & Recreation be invited to attend the next meeting.

Mr. Houle noted that he personally invited Mr. Ludwig to the meeting this evening.

Chairman Higgins addressed a gentleman who was at the meeting from the West Booster Club. She noted that he was here to discuss the new Fitness Room but this wasn't the appropriate Committee in which to do that. The West High Booster Club will be making a presentation before the Building & Sites Committee on October 1 and then the full School Board will be voting on it.

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

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee