

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SITES & FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

Present: Joseph Britton, Rachel Chaleski, Gladys Cooper, Fred Karrat, Ralph Pietrefesa

Also Present: Kate Conetta, Patrick Johnston, Emanuela Palmares, Amy Spallino, Dr. Sal Pascarella, Kevin Walston, Dr. Kara Casimiro, Kelly Truchsess, Kishore Solanki, Rich Jalbert, Glenn Yeakel, Dr. Anne Mead

The Chair of the Sites & Facilities Committee, R. Pietrefesa, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and turned it over to R. Jalbert who updated the committee on projects completed over the summer. The work included:

- DHS C3 and C4 floors replacement after pipe break and abatement. New non-wax product was installed.
- School Lunch office moved and refurbished from Osborne St. to DHS.
- Additional 100 lockers at WMSA.
- WMSA Guidance Office was split into two offices based on operational needs.
- Shelter Rock basketball hoops restored after modular classrooms installation; work was done to counters and cabinets in art room and cafeteria.
- Due to the increased student growth, R. Jalbert has sought a proposal to build one classroom in the Ellsworth Media Center and two classrooms in the KSP Media Center.

R. Jalbert gave an overview of security updates that include:

- ACE camera system converted to Avigilon and addition of six cameras.
- DHS will receive 17 additional cameras from United Alarm next week.
- Raptor visitor management system has been installed in all schools and is being moved from Osborne St. site to Early Education Center.
- Security/vandal-resistant film is currently being installed at ACE and BMS.
- A proposal will be acquired for security upgrades at the Beaver Brook Administrative Center and Curriculum Resource Center.
- R. Jalbert spoke about the work Rich Torres completed to hire new and experienced Safety Advocates:
 - Robert Daubert: retired judicial marshall (DHS)
 - Mike Fest: retired judicial marshall (Reach/Endeavor)
 - John Pavia: retired judicial marshall sergeant (DHS)
 - Jennifer Recinos-Medina: former school security (DHS)
 - Mathew Rosenthal: Army veteran (AIS Magnet School)
 - The role of Lead Safety Advocate is currently vacant.
 - Safety Advocates were provided four hours training in their job description and Partnering to Prevent School Violence by Danbury PD and Rich Torres.

The floor was opened for questions. Discussion ensued.

R. Jalbert updated the committee on the state security grant, which will reimburse qualified work up to \$750,000. With \$250,000 allocated in the budget for the work, it will be completed incrementally over a 2-year implementation period. Discussion ensued.

R. Pietrafesa turned the meeting over to G. Yeakel who updated the committee on facilities and space utilization. A site plan of the AIS Magnet School was distributed. The plan included drawings for a potential addition of 6 temporary classrooms on the back field. Dr. Sal informed the committee that the state requires a student population ratio of 60% district students and 40% non-district students in order to qualify for state funding. An imbalance would jeopardize state and local non-district tuition funding as well as a building cost. Discussion ensued.

R. Pietrafesa inquired about space at other properties. G. Yeakel reviewed prior proposals for additions at Great Plain, Hayestown, King Street, Mill Ridge and Pembroke Schools. He stated that overall there is not enough land on current properties. Discussion ensued.

R. Pietrafesa inquired about other feasible options. G. Yeakel spoke about other districts that have sought vacant office or retail spaces. Dr. Sal has been in contact with ARC Executive Director Rev. Leopold for possible temporary church space. Discussion ensued.

R. Pietrafesa asked for a motion that a joint exploratory committee with the City of Danbury be created to continue to study the space needs of the school district. The motion was moved by F. Karrat and seconded by J. Britton. Motion passed at 6:39 p.m.

F. Karrat moved, seconded by J. Britton, to adjourn the September 11 Sites and Facilities Committee Meeting. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Rachel Chaleski