

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
EDUCATION and SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2011

6:30 PM

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Taylor-Moye; Co-chair, Brantley; Co-chair Baker, Bonney, Martinez

NON-COMMITTEE: Council members: T. McCarthy

OTHER(s): George Garcia, Director of Facilities

Co-chair Taylor-Moye called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

Co-chair Taylor-Moye updated that at the last meeting, the committee requested additional information on the proposed plan for the roofing project at Bassick High School.

Approval of Committee Minutes: April 13, 2011

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES
** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

50-10 Grant Submission: re: proposed resolution for the creation of a replacement roofing project at Bassick High School.

Co-chair Taylor-Moye asked if everyone had a copy of the proposal and if there were any questions.

Council member Baker asked if there was a city match. Mr. Garcia said the city match is 20%. He stated that he will go to the state to request additional funding.

Council member McCarthy said the state allocates 80% of the cost and the city will allocate 20%. He noted the allocation was already in the capital plan.

Mr. Garcia stated that the total cost for the roof is \$1.58 million. The city's portion is 20% of that and 80% will come from the state to cover the soft costs, architecture etc.

Council member McCarthy commented that they have a new high school in a newly portion of Bridgeport. He said there have been discussions about the GE property and Harding. He expressed that in his mind, Bassick is the weakest place for a facility. He asked what the long term vision was for Bassick High School, noting that there is a necessity for a state-of-the-art facility. He commented that it seemed Bassick is the *"lonely step child"*, in terms of new improvements. Mr. Garcia said they came up with five tiers for renovating the schools. Harding was bumped up one year and they were aligned with Central for improvements; so it was to be Harding, Bassick and Central. He stated that the plan for Bassick is solid because two buildings are joined by bridges and it has charm as a historic place in Bridgeport. He said they didn't want to knock it down, but they plan to do some updates with new technology, furnishings, finishing's etc. that will consist of smart boards and computers. He added that the Bassick has a planetarium, so a lot of focus will be building something around that. Also, the gym will be refurbished.

Council member McCarthy asked what the time frame was for the improvements. Mr. Garcia said it will be presented to the capital plan next year.

Mr. Garcia explained that there was a meeting with the administration at Bassick High School and it was decided they will mirror what they did at Harding High School. They will implement a color coordinated system to determine if someone is outside their district area. He said they also have plans to build a mock court in Harding and a bank in Bassick. Overall, they have devoted a lot of time to the high schools and they are trying to close out as many work orders as possible to create as many social outlets as possible.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia recalled that during 1993, there was a proposal to turn Bassick High School into a magnet high school. She commented that she was glad the building will remain.

Mr. Garcia said the administration was working hard to find a way for the facilities to be productive, rather than tearing them down. They want to do something with the space that is there now.

Council member Baker asked why they didn't have plans to install solar panels on the Bassick High School facility. Mr. Garcia said they looked at the possibility of doing that, but they already had plans to install the roof immediately. He thought they would look into using more eco-friendly features and materials on the schools in the future.

Council member Baker asked the purpose for doing the renovations at Harding. Mr. Garcia said the school was always in need of repairs. He emphasized that the school has needs to accommodate the students, so they want to help enhance the program wherever they can.

Council member Martinez asked what plans they had for Harding High School. Mr. Garcia added they have plans to do extensive painting at the school.

Council member Martinez said she visits the school often and she observed the terrible building conditions, such as; the walls crumbling, damaged furniture etc. She said she was glad that renovations were being done. Council member Brantley concurred that improvements were sorely needed at Harding.

Council member Vizzo-Paniccia asked if the roof at Bassick High School will be peaked or flat. Mr. Garcia said it will be a flat roof. He noted that unfortunately, due to the mechanical units that will be installed, it will be difficult to peak the roof.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTELY MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COUNCIL MEMBER BONNEY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
City of Bridgeport
Education and Social Services Committee
May 11, 2011
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Telesco Secretarial Services