

TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

5:30 P.M. Tuesday
November 27, 2012

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Leslie Lewis, Leandra MacDonald, Susan Stanbury, Roland Patten, Sue Chollet and Alan Zeller.

Also Present: Carol Ogilvie, Director, and Laura Norton, Administrative Assistant, Office of Community Development.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Welcome and Opening Comments:

“Let’s get started” began Chair Lewis, adding the School Board was present to give the Committee an update. School Superintendent Richard Bergeron thanked the members for their time “thanks for the invite” he said adding “this is the fifth or sixth time we have been in.”

Mr. Bergeron noted that as in the past the information the members would be hearing was not yet public knowledge and had not yet been presented to the School Board. “Our meeting is December 4th so it is in a proposed format” he said. Mr. Bergeron went on to note several things “that are going to impact us through the next budget cycle, not the least of which is what is happening at the state level.”

Assistant Superintendent Kimberly Saunders briefly explained the School District’s move toward a common set of curriculum standards. “We are in the process of adoption and implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) a national set of learning expectations for college and career success developed by teachers, parents, school administrators and education experts.” She noted New Hampshire is one of 46 states (including all the New England states) to adopt CCSS. “Not simply to align with other states but to raise the bar in all grades to ensure the students are receiving an education that is relevant and rigorous. It is a standards-based curriculum.” Ms. Saunders also noted this would improve the teaching skills and quality of teachers. Ms. MacDonald asked about the average age of teachers at ConVal with Mr. Bergeron replying “40s” adding “people are staying on longer.” He then reviewed their Mission, Vision and Values Statements.

Mr. Bergeron reviewed the highlights of 2011-2012 as well as the expectation for Facilities, Personnel and Curriculum and Professional Development for 2012-2013.

Business Administrator Marion Alese briefly reviewed the projections and planning for the ConVal High School Capital Improvement Plan. When finished Ms. Chollet remarked “impressive” and asked “how long have you been doing this?” Mr. Bergeron replied “six years.”

Mr. Bergeron went on to review the District's goals of high quality learning environments, the establishment of a curricula that reflects essential knowledge, skills and values necessary for students to be successful life-long learners. He referred to a multi-year professional development program for all teaching staff in initiatives such as literacy instruction, integration of technology in the classrooms, assessment and response to intervention, differentiated instruction and transition to Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

Mr. Patten asked about surprises (citing the roof problems at many of the elementary schools in the District). Mr. Bergeron replied "we have had them, you have to deal with them. We make do."

Ms. Alese briefly reviewed professional development noting "the in-house professional development programming is getting better all the time."

Mr. Bergeron went on to review the Special Education and Student Services. He noted the provision of Preschool and Elementary autism programming and the goal to expand the programs to the Middle School level noting "these kids get older every year." Ms. MacDonald asked if there was an IEP for every student with Mr. Bergeron replying "I think we are headed in that direction." Ms. MacDonald also asked about two different curriculum changes in two and a half years. Ms. Saunders noted they invest in development programs for the same reason big companies do, for research and development. "What we know about children changes" she said. Ms. MacDonald asked about the curriculums for home-schooled children. Mr. Bergeron noted "mostly religious reasons" that children are home-schooled and "not because the school is not providing a good education." Ms. Alese also added that child care was no longer provided at the High School and that Special Education would be moving into that (physical) area.

The members reviewed the Technology Plan (integration and technology services) across the District as well as the continued review of current research and recommendations for providing access to and best use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

Mr. Bergeron concluded by reviewing the goal of maintaining an ongoing assessment system that measures individual student growth as well as the effectiveness of the District programs. He noted NECAP (New England Common Assessment Program), Smarter Balanced, the NWEA MAP Testing program (North West Evaluation Association Map) and AIMSweb as specific tools in assessing progress.

Mr. Bergeron concluded by noting funding reductions at the state level will (does) (is) having an adverse effect on local funding. He reviewed the methods of financing including 1-year Appropriation, Non-Lapsing Appropriation, Lease/Purchase, Bonding, Capital Reserve, Private and Public Sponsorships and Grants. Chair Lewis concluded "on behalf of the Committee I thank you for coming in. We always enjoy hearing your plans."

The Committee then turned to the CIP to review their numbers and the bottom line. Chair Lewis began by noting "I think we should reduce the Open Space plan from \$25,000.00 with Ms. Stanbury interjecting "I had the same thought." The members also discussed the Recreation

Department coming back to the Committee with an actual plan for the athletic fields, not a placeholder. Chair Lewis noted she would email Mr. King with that suggestion.

The members also discussed the dump truck request from Recreation. Mr. Patten explained how the Highway Department “hands down” their used trucks to the Rec Department. He also noted that while they pass along their vehicles, they also pass along the horrendous maintenance issues that come with older, well used trucks. Chair Lewis asked “is it a *dump* truck or a *truck* truck?” Mr. Patten replied “it is a dump truck.” The members discussed moving the request out with Chair Lewis noting “let’s move it; that will help us with next year.”

The members reviewed the potential collaboration with the Schools for athletic programming and maintenance planning, the lighting for the Main Street Bridge and the Grove Street Bridge (they should be the same styles) and how to approach purchases (for instance the busses purchased by Recreation) through or via the Isabelle Miller Fund that need ongoing maintenance and service. The members briefly discussed the limits to the busses of the Recreation Department with one bus leaking and the other unable to be driven without a Commercial Driver’s License. The also briefly discussed user fees and fundraisers. Chair Lewis noted that adaptation might be necessary adding “when a family needs food they stop going to the movies. I don’t think it is unreasonable to ask Rec to share the expenses and participate at a higher level than they are now.” Mr. Patten defended the program and explained some of the challenges the Recreation Director faces. Ms. Chollet suggested the Mr. Patten had a special attachment to Recreation and noted “you are so involved with Rec, you need to back off, you really do.” Mr. Patten replied “I apologize” with Ms. Chollet noting “you feel strongly about it, we realize that but in this capacity (CIP) we have the hat on for everyone.”

Chair Lewis noted it was time to finish up. She re-capped the thoughts of the Committee and what would need to be followed up on. She also suggested they pursue the Greater Downtown TIF to see if they might purchase the lights for the bridges. With the final calculations completed Chair Lewis noted “all said and done, we are at 4%.”

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Norton,
Administrative Assistant