

NEW HOPE-SOLEBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board Minutes
June 15, 2016

Per Policy 006.2 all Board of School Directors meetings are audio recorded.

I. Call to Order and Announcement of Executive Session

A meeting of the New Hope-Solebury School District Board of Directors was held in the District Office Conference Room on Wednesday, June 15, 2016. Mr. Cowell, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m.

No Executive Session was held prior to the meeting.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Serafin's class led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

The Secretary called roll:

Members present: Mr. Cowell, Mr. Capriotti, Mrs. Deussing, Mr. Dougherty, Mrs. Gormley, Mrs. Keyes, Mr. McDonough, Mrs. Povacz, Mrs. Weisbrot

Members absent: None

Administrators present: Dr. Yanni, Dr. Cortellessa, Mr. Hansel, Mr. Lechman, Mr. Malone, Mrs. Marton, Mr. Radaszkiewicz, Mr. Rivera, Mr. Seier

IV. Additions, Deletions, and/or Modifications to the Agenda

NONE

V. Old Business

A. Presentation and/or Discussion Items

- Installation of Gates at the LES and UES Playgrounds – Mr. Hansel

- Heavy gauge chain with padlock is the recommendation.

B. Board Discussion

- Mr. Capriotti agreed with the recommendation.

C. Public Comment

NONE

VI. New Business

A. Presentation and/or Discussion Items

- Conversion of District-wide Telephone System to VOIP – Mr. Radaszkiewicz
 - Presented proposal for VoIP Telephone System which will deliver phone services via the Internet.
 - This system will result in cost savings over five years for the district for enhanced services.
 - The right time to do this is at the time of the building renovation.
 - Four proposals were procured with the recommendation of Norstar Networks.
 - Discussed the total costs including maintenance over five years and estimated savings over five years.

- Review Bids for High School Campus Revitalization Project – Project Team
 - Chris Haller of D’HUY stated bids were received on June 9 and provided a summary. The Mechanical Electrical Plumbing (“MEP”) bids came in under budget; however, General Contractor (“GC”) bids came in high.
 - Discussed the goals of project of the project as safety, security, ADA, and education; discussed how to meet the goals without going over the \$28.5 million dollar budget; discussed removal of LGI and not adding alternates.
 - Reviewed the bidding factors that caused the high GC bid:
 1. General Contractors – 7 purchased bid documents and only 2 bid.
 2. Timeline moved from December 2015 to June 2016
 3. Difference between 2 GC bids was \$1M
 4. Steel, site work, and masonry were higher than could have been anticipated.
 - Options for consideration
 1. We have 60 days from June 9 to decide what to do with this contract.
 2. We can reject the GC portion of the contract and just rebid it; suggested this may be a viable option and the schedule would be reworked if this option is pursued.
 3. Does not anticipate the finish date of August 2018 being impacted.
 4. The phasing schedule would be reworked to get out to contractors.
 5. With this route, bids can be tweaked but cannot affect the MEP bids at all.
 6. There is no risk and no cost to pursue this option.

B. Board Discussion

- Mrs. Povacz questioned the VOIP maintenance contract with Norstar and asked if it is fixed for 5 years.
- Mrs. Povacz asked if a POTS line is available for fire alarms and backup for VoIP system.
- Mrs. Gormley commented about the positives of having VOIP in the school setting.
- Mr. Capriotti asked if the plan for the VOIP system is predicated on the Campus Revitalization Project.

- Mr. Capriotti expressed disappointment with the bid results as we already pulled items from the project yet the bids came in \$2 million over budget; feels we are paying more for less; if based on timing, we wait until December to get more for less; stated GC's are busy and submitted high bids; stated he supports giving GC's another opportunity to bid competitively.
- Mr. Dougherty supported Mr. Capriotti's statements; asked if MEP contractors can opt out if we suspend for 60 days;
 - Response is that per contract, if they don't withdraw bids in 48 hours, they must hold bids for 60 days.
- Mr. Dougherty asked if contractors are aware of the number of firms to purchase documents and why demolition came in at \$900,000 compared to budget of \$250,000.
- Mr. Dougherty asked if we rebid what happens to the 2 existing bids by GC's.
 - Response is that the Board would reject GC's bids, not touch the MEP bids, and the 2 contractors that submitted have opportunity to rebid.
- Mrs. Gormley asked if the schedule would change.
- Mr. Cowell asked why we would get more bidders if everyone is so busy for the summer.
- Mrs. Povacz agreed with Mr. Capriotti that this is disappointing but not totally unpredictable; stated we should be careful with timeline/costs as well as quality of workmanship at this time.
- Mr. McDonough stated we have to reject the bids in order to rebid the package; there are two choices
 1. Accept at \$30+M and reduce the LGI and Classrooms
 2. Reject GC and rebid.
- Dr. Yanni stated there are additional contractors that are reputable to bid at this point and discussed the path to follow to reject bids and rebid the GC portion and analyze with no risk or additional costs.
- D. Yanni suggested the following motion for the June 20 Board meeting: It is recommended that the Board of School Directors reject the General Contractor (GC) bids for the Campus Revitalization Plan. Further, it is recommended that the Board of School Directors authorize the Administration to seek additional bids for the CG portion of the Campus Revitalization Project according to the schedule proposed by D'Huy Construction. *

C. Public Discussion

- Mr. Band commented on the Campus Revitalization Project and cost per square foot.
- Mr. Peckman commented on the Campus Revitalization Project timeline
- Mr. Adar commented on the Campus Revitalization Project motions for the agenda; suggested multiple motions for consideration.

VII. Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Deussing, and seconded by Mrs. Keyes, which was unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

The next Board of School Directors Meeting will be held on Monday, June 20, 2016 at 6:30 PM in the District Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Lechman
Board Secretary

Date