

Weare School Board Extra Meeting
APPROVED Minutes
July 14, 2017 - 4:00 P.M.
Weare Middle School Library

Present: Board Chair Marjorie Burke, Board Vice Chair Donny Guillemette, Board Member Lisa Johnson, Board Member Susan Morin, Board Member Jeff Anderson, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jacqueline Coe, Business Administrator Kathleen Sargent, and Center Woods Elementary School Facilities Manager John Astholz.

1. Opening:

Board Chair Marjorie Burke called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. Board Chair Marjorie Burke thanked everyone for attending and stated that the purpose for the extra meeting was to discuss the Center Woods Elementary School wall project.

2. Discussion:

Board Chair Marjorie Burke shared that the wall project has been a lengthy process. It has been difficult to acquire more than one contractor to bid on the project. Board Chair Burke further explained that the probability of acquiring a new contractor in July is problematic. The need to move forward due to time constraints and the safety of students is necessary.

Business Administrator Kathleen Sargent stated that Facilities Manager John Astholz, Center Woods Elementary School Principal Jess Potter and herself had been reviewing the wall project since February. There were many discussions in regards to bids. In April, there were two bidders for the project. During the June School Board meeting, there were still two bidders. On June 30th, one of the bidders withdrew because they couldn't wait for a decision any longer. At this point, Mrs. Sargent contacted Mr. Bisson at Harriman to discuss next steps. They discussed the availability of the one bidder, and the feasibility of developing a controlled contract, where Harriman would oversee the project. They discussed the scope of the project and the estimated time for completion.

Facilities Manager John Astholz shared a letter he had written to Business Administrator Kathleen Sargent with the Board. Mr. Astholz shared the difficulty in finding a contractor who would commit to a quote for the project, therefore a decision was made to contact Harriman. Harriman could offer a professional opinion as well as leverage in finding a contractor for the project. Mr. Astholz discussed the different scenarios for rerouting students and staff in the event that the project is not completed. Mr. Astholz stated that not completing this project was a big liability on the district.

Board Member Donny Guillemette discussed the importance of completing the project. He stated that Business Administrator Kathleen Sargent has kept the Board updated and that he understands that the protocol is to acquire multiple bids for a project, but Mrs. Sargent has shared the difficulty of acquiring bids at several Board meetings. Mr. Guillemette stated that the funds were allocated when the Board decided to proceed with the project. There are documented attempts to acquire bids and due diligence has been established by the Board. Mr. Guillemette stated that he saw no reason why the Board should not move forward with the project, particularly since it is summer.

Board Member Lisa Johnson agreed with Mr. Guillemette and shared concerns over losing the one bidder, safety concerns for students, and inquired if there could be repairs to the wall before school starts to make it safe.

Facilities Manager John Astholz stated that the slab in question is over the top of a downstairs exit. The slab needs to be replaced because it is tied into the rebar (reinforcing bar) with the main section of the building. The walkway is the slab and it is eroding at a fast rate and slants toward the school allowing water to flow into the school.

Board Member Susan Morin stated that she is on the Facilities Committee and she heard in mid-December that there might be a small issue. At that time, it was reported that the structure was solid and repairs would be cosmetic. Mrs. Morin detailed the monthly updates made at Board meetings and expressed concern that there was not more information shared earlier. Mrs. Morin stated that

communication is an issue, but that the project needs to be completed. Mrs. Morin appreciated the extra meeting.

Facilities Manager John Astholz stated that it started as a surface concern (tripping), but eroding concrete changed the scope of the project.

Board Member Jeff Anderson reiterated that the protocol is to acquire three bids, but that the Board had previously voted to accept only two bids as there were no other contractors bidding on the project. Mr. Anderson questioned whether the Board was doing their fiduciary duty for taxpayers by moving forward with one bid. Mr. Anderson questioned the urgency of the project based on the report received from Harriman and whether the Facilities Manager could regularly monitor the concrete and remove any loose material thereby decreasing a potential hazard. Mr. Anderson stated that he did not want to move forward with one bid.

Board Member Donny Guillemette stated that the Board needs to consider that professionals are hired to manage the schools, whose priority is the safety of students, and that those people are advocating that the project move forward. Mr. Guillemette reiterated that the project should move forward.

MOTION: Board Chair Marjorie Burke entertained a motion to accept the acquired one bid and move forward with the CWES wall project up to the amount budgeted. Board Member Donny Guillemette so moved. Board Member Lisa Johnson seconded the motion. There was further discussion by the Board. **VOTE:** The motion passed, 4-1-0 (Board Member Jeff Anderson, No).

3. Adjournment:

MOTION: Board Vice Chair Donny Guillemette moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:36 p.m. Board Member Lisa Johnson seconded the motion. **VOTE:** The motion passed, 5-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Jacqueline Coe