

BOARD OF FINANCE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
June 4, 2013

Pursuant to the call and written notice the Regular Meeting of the Board of Finance was held on Tuesday, June 4, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the Board of Education Administrative Offices, Seminar Room 300, 501 Kings Highway East, Fairfield, Connecticut.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Thomas Flynn, Catherine Albin, Robert Bellitto Jr., Ken Brachfeld, James Brown, Mary LeClerc, Robert Stone, James Walsh(7:40)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Christopher DeWitt

ALSO PRESENT

Robert Mayer, Chief of Staff and Acting Chief Financial Officer, Town of Fairfield
Caitlin Bosse, Controller, Town of Fairfield and Clerk of the Board of Finance (BOF)
Cinda Buchter, Tax Collector, Town of Fairfield
Dr. David Title, Superintendent of Schools, Board of Education (BOE), Town of Fairfield
Phillip Dwyer, Chairman, Board of Education, Town of Fairfield
Pamela Iacono, Vice-Chairman, Board of Education, Town of Fairfield
Greg Hatzis, Headmaster, Fairfield Ludlowe High School
Brenda Anziano, Principal, Riverfield Elementary School
Tom Quinn, Chairman, Riverfield Building Committee
Ken Boroson, George Katinger, Boroson Architects
Marc Sklenka, Strategic Building Solutions, Owners Representative, Riverfield Building Project

ACTION TAKEN

1. Approved to move \$67,595.93 from the Tax Collector receivables account to the Tax Collector suspense account.
2. Approved the Bond Resolution entitled, "A Resolution Appropriating \$14,485,766 for the Costs Associated with the Expansion and Renovation of Riverfield Elementary School and Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds to Finance such Appropriation.
3. Approved the Bond Resolution entitled, "A Resolution Appropriating \$11,630,000 for the Costs Associated with the Expansion and Renovation of Fairfield Ludlowe High School and Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds to Finance such Appropriation

Chairman Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

A Fairfield Public School student from Riverfield School led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Flynn asked for a moment of silence for First Selectman Michael Tetreau's mother who passed today. Chairman Flynn said the Board's thoughts and prayers are with the Tetreau family at this most difficult time.

AGENDA

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1. To review suspense accounts for Tax Collector.

Ms. Buchter explained the process that is used to develop the list of suspense accounts. Ms. Buchter explained that this list is comprised primarily of accounts unpaid due to bankruptcies, death and taxpayers who have moved out of town and cannot be located. Ms. Buchter further explained that items on the suspense list can still be collected if deemed possible.

**Mr. Brown moved and Mr. Bellitto, Jr. seconded to approve to move \$67,595.93 from the Tax Collector receivables account to the Tax Collector suspense account.
Motion carried unanimously.**

2. To hear, consider and adopt the Bond Resolution entitled, "A Resolution Appropriating \$14,485,766 for the Costs Associated with the Expansion and Renovation of Riverfield Elementary School and Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds to Finance such Appropriation", a copy of which is attached hereto.

Dr. Title, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Iacono and Mr. Quinn presented this item to the Board. The Board was informed that the Board of Selectmen (BOS) had approved Option D to move forward.

A discussion on enrollment projections and capacity determination methodology followed. Mr. Quinn presented the plan for the renovations to Riverfield Elementary School. Mr. Quinn explained that the Committee has removed everything that is possible without compromising the education specs and he noted that security has become a main issue since the events of December 14th in Newtown.

Kenneth Boroson reviewed the plans and explained the reasons for the decisions going into Scheme 2B – Option D which was approved by the BOS.

Marc Sklenka was introduced as the Owners Representative for this project.

In response to questions from the Board, Mr. Quinn stated that the original \$11M estimate previously developed was incomplete and lacked any contingency funds, bonds, and low values on pricing of items. Mr. Quinn reported that the current price of \$14.5M is as low as it can get while still providing the educational specification requirements.

In response to questions from the Board regarding security updates for all Fairfield schools, the Board was informed that Dr. Title will be addressing security issues district wide in a method still to be determined.

Dr. Title also informed the Board that air conditioning needs to be addressed in the Long Range Facilities Plan going forward as well as security.

Mr. Mayer reviewed the cost history for this project and the waterfall schedule adjustments needed to accommodate the two projects being considered tonight. Mr. Dwyer reported that the BOE is aware of the Capital Plan Changes necessitated by these projects. Mr. Dwyer also noted that the BOE has discussed the Capital Plan and the Long Range Plan and is aware of the changes needed. Mr. Brachfeld asked Mr. Mayer why the term for the bond is limited to 20 years. Mr. Mayer informed the Board that he will look into the reason for that term and report back to the Board with his findings. Chairman Flynn noted that the 20 year term is in agreement with the policy set last year by the BOF.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kristen Harrington, 79 Wahlbin Court

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Please approve this full resolution; interest rates are currently at an all time low; quantitative aspects of this request meet requirements; air conditioning will enhance/support security efforts.

Hope Karate, 42 Heather Lane

She is a former teacher and current taxpayer; the temperature in the building is a health as well as a safety issue.

Donna Alger, 245 Taunton Road

She taught kindergarten at Riverfield from 2005-2009; services are delivered to students in the halls due to lack of space; the air quality in the building is bad; a/c is needed to deliver a quality education.

Jacqueline Fieldler, 224 Taunton Road

Long overdue renovation; there is inadequate space to provide services; portables are a real safety concern; lunch area is extremely overcrowded and the second lunch line is desperately needed; please approve this resolution.

David Gibson, 98 Riverview Circle

Riverfield looks the same today as it did in 1982 when he attended; long overdue for renovations; please pass the full resolution.

Nicki Vinosky, 485 Brookside Drive

She is a special education teacher and is aware of the issues; please support the full resolution.

Mr. Bellitto, Jr. moved and Mr. Brachfeld seconded to approve the Bond Resolution entitled, “A Resolution Appropriating \$14,485,766 for the Costs Associated with the Expansion and Renovation of Riverfield Elementary School and Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds to Finance such Appropriation.” Motion carried unanimously.

3. To hear, consider and adopt the Bond Resolution entitled, “A Resolution Appropriating \$11,630,000 for the Costs Associated with the Expansion and Renovation of Fairfield Ludlowe High School and Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds to Finance such Appropriation”, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Dr. Title, Mr. Dwyer, Mrs. Iacono, Mr. Hatzis, and Mr. Silver presented this item to the Board.

Mr. Walsh recused himself from this item due to a possible conflict because he has a child who will be attending FLHS. Mr. Walsh then left the meeting.

Dr. Title reviewed the procedures used to develop this project. Dr. Title informed the Board that this method is one he has used in other districts and it has proved to work well. A discussion of the pros and cons of this method followed, after which Mr. Brachfeld stated that, in his opinion, the BOF needs to take a leap of faith and give Dr. Title the benefit of the doubt on this and see how well it works in Fairfield.

Mr. Silver, in response to questions from the Board concerning how the costs were developed, stated that he designed the Stratfield School project and his firm is conservative, responsible and knows what Fairfield needs, and expects, for their estimates.

A further discussion followed concerning what has been chosen to be done versus what still needs to be done. During the discussion, the BOE stated that the educational specifications are written by the BOE (Dr. Title, Mr. Cullen, Mr. Morabito) and then approved by the elected BOE.

A discussion also took place regarding the need for the cafeteria renovations based on the need for students to have a 30 minute lunch which then would necessitate a schedule change to be effective.

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The Board questioned doing the renovations if there are no plans to revise the current schedule model. Dr. Title informed the Board that the BOE has been looking at various schedule models for some time.

Chairman Flynn questioned the need to spend \$360K for a student lounge versus using that money for bathrooms which are long overdue for replacement. Mr. Hatzis explained the value of the student lounge to the Board and Dr. Title reported that this project is not a complete overhaul of the building but rather, considering the current financial limitations being experienced by all, a choice of what absolutely needs to be done to keep the high school moving forward. Dr. Title noted that the roof absolutely needs to be done and the windows must be replaced as soon as possible especially in light of the PCB reports. Dr. Title also noted that the science rooms are a necessity due to enrollments and the BOE needs to provide adequate facilities for the program.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathy Coyle, 84 Sherwood Farm Road

She supports the science spaces; she is disappointed at the number of students being planned for when the school is over capacity now.

Diane O'Shaunessey, Queens Grant Road

She is concerned about having 1700 students at this site; the school is currently over capacity; this is a dangerous situation; alternate plans should be researched; she has serious concerns with construction on site with students.

Michelle Baker, 200 Pepperidge Circle

Please approve this project; science classes are limited now and additional space is desperately needed; the cafeteria is overcrowded; shared space is very inefficient.

Chairman Flynn stated that he will support this project but he requested the BOE to take a good look at the student lounge and use that space in a better way.

Mr. Bellitto, Jr. moved and Mr. Stone seconded to approve the Resolution Appropriating \$11,630,000 for the Costs Associated with the Expansion and Renovation of Fairfield Ludlowe High School and Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds to Finance such Appropriation.

Motion carried with a vote of 6 yeas, 1 nay (LeClerc), 0 abstentions.

4. To hear, consider and act upon any communications.

None

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah J. Garavel
Recording Secretary