

**BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD FACILITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2008**

Mrs. Michele Cann, Facilities Chairperson of the Board of School Directors, called the meeting of the Board Facilities Committee to order at 6:08 p.m. on Monday, October 6, 2008, in the Dining Room of the Education Center. Present were School Board members Benjamin Tenaglia, Charlene Koch, Loretta Leeson, Michele Cann, Irene Follweiler, Rosario Amato, Judith Dexter, and Eugene McKeon. Also present were Dr. Joseph A. Lewis, superintendent of schools; Scott T. Gilliland, director of facilities and operations; Arif Fazil, district engineer (D'Huy Engineering, Inc.); Thomas Washington, assistant superintendent for human resources; Stanley Majewski, assistant to the superintendent for finance and administration; David Himmelberger, supervisor of transportation; Michael LaPorta, principal of Freedom High School; Ann Behers, operations manager; Donald Spry II, solicitor; and representatives from the press.

The following items were discussed:

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR TO VISITORS –

No discussion.

DISCUSSION ITEMS –

Mrs. Cann explained that agenda items A through E were all credits from projects that have been completed. She asked if there were any questions on these items, and if not, we would proceed with agenda item F.

Mr. Fazil reviewed agenda item F, Authorization to Expend 2007 Bond Funds – New Broughal Middle School Construction Project – Construction Testing – Allowance Increase. He said that this was related to the construction testing taking place at Broughal Middle School. The original cost of the construction testing was based on unit testing. To date, there has been a tremendous amount of sub surface testing completed. The original dollar amount was an estimate of what would be needed to complete the testing; however, there was a great deal of testing required because of the amount of subsurface remediation required to construct the building pad.

Mrs. Follweiler asked if this was an increase in the overall expense of the Broughal project.

Mr. Fazil said that there is a million dollar contingency on the Broughal project and to date, there have been no change orders submitted for the project. In addition, a number of the budget line items are well below the estimates. Mr. Fazil said that an example of this was the UGI Utilities, Inc. gas line installation and relocation which is also on this month's agenda as item E.

Mr. Tenaglia asked if even with this increase, the contingency has not been tapped in to?

Mr. Fazil said that is correct.

Mr. Fazil then explained agenda item G, Authorization to Expend 2007 Bond Funds – Liberty High School Additions and Renovations Project – Change Order. He said that this item refers to the asbestos floor tile removal in the overpass in the Liberty High School Commons Building at the Klein Classroom Center overpass connector and in the lower level. One level has a concrete sub floor and the other is wood. Mr. Fazil said that the sub floor is going to require some repair. The administration is recommending that terrazzo flooring be installed in these areas. Terrazzo is being recommended for its durability; these areas have large volumes of high traffic. Terrazzo is also much thicker than VCT; therefore, it will have better longevity. VCT is the type of material commonly used in classrooms where the volume of traffic is much lower. Terrazzo is also being recommended as VCT does not hold up well to moisture. The corridors located next to this area also have terrazzo installed in them.

Dr. Lewis added that VCT can be installed, but because of the volume of traffic this area gets, it will have to be addressed [for replacement] on a biannual basis.

Mr. Fazil said that the only way to thoroughly clean the VCT is to strip and wax it. Waxing would only be able to be done occasionally as this overpass and vestibule areas are used daily.

Mr. Gilliland noted that the sub floor will be plywood, and when the stripping process is done, water is used. It is possible that water can leak down through the seams of the VCT to the plywood sub floor and cause damage beneath the VCT. If terrazzo is installed in these areas, it would be a lifetime application and water penetration would not be an issue.

Mrs. Leeson asked that if this is what the administration was recommending, why was this not included in the original bid?

Mr. Fazil stated that he could not speak for the architect as to why this was not included in the original bid, but indicated that this area was originally covered with asbestos tile. He reminded the board that this similar situation was brought to their attention and terrazzo was approved in other surrounding areas. Mr. Fazil also said that there are areas in the school that have VCT installed over a wood sub floor, but because of the location and use of this area, we felt it was prudent to consider upgrading the finish in these areas.

Dr. Lewis asked if a consensus could be reached to see if the board would like to see agenda items F and G appear on the Regular Board Meeting Agenda for October 20, 2008.

Mr. Fazil added that there was not much of a choice regarding the testing for agenda item F [relating to the construction testing for Broughal]. This testing was required in order to maintain the quality control and compliance for the project.

Mrs. Cann asked if the testing was being done to ensure that the building structure was safe. If it was a safety issue, then it should be approved.

After a vote, it was decided to have these items appear on the agenda.

OPEN FORUM –

Mr. Tenaglia asked if there was any update on the tile [at the Liberty High School auxiliary gym lavatories and team rooms].

Mr. Fazil answered that it is progressing, and they have been in touch with the manufacturer. They are talking with the contractor and working on a solution. He said that at this point, that was all the information he had for the board, but would let them know of any further updates.

Mr. Gilliland reviewed agenda item H, Private Transportation Contracts. He explained that this item is brought before the board for review every year at this time. Mr. Gilliland said that the board needs to approve this item to move forward with the transportation contracts.

Mrs. Leeson asked why the district was paying to have a kindergarten student transported to a school outside of the district when kindergarten was not a required grade. Mrs. Leeson also said that it was her understanding that the prekindergarten students at SPARK were also receiving transportation at the district's cost. Why was this transportation being provided if these programs are not required?

Mr. Majewski said that transportation as a whole is not a required service of the district. However, once a decision is made by the district to provide transportation, there are certain laws that have to be followed pertaining to who qualifies for transportation. It is the district's choice to provide transportation to prekindergarten students. Kindergarten transportation is bound by state laws. The district is also obligated to provide transportation to students who live more than a mile away from the school. Mr. Majewski also said that if the district decides against providing transportation these students, there will be many angry parents that will come before the board with objections. Mr. Majewski then asked Mr. Spry to confirm these laws.

Mr. Spry said that he would research the laws.

Mr. Majewski asked the board if they wanted the solicitor to confirm what laws were in place in regard to transportation of students.

Mrs. Cann asked if it was necessary to have the laws of both kindergarten and prekindergarten transportation laws researched. She did not want to see money spent where it was not needed.

After a vote, the board decided to have both kindergarten and prekindergarten laws researched by the solicitor.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE OCTOBER 20, 2008, REGULAR BOARD MEETING –

After discussion, the board committee agreed to bring the following agenda items to the October 20, 2008, Regular Board Meeting:

- A. Authorization to Expend 2007 Bond Funds – Freedom High School Additions and Renovations Project – Change Order Deduct
- B. Authorization to Expend 2007 Bond Funds – Roof Repairs/Replacement – East Hills Middle School, Spring Garden Elementary School, and Transportation Building – Change Orders Deduct
- C. Authorization to Restore Capital Reserve Funds – Security Camera System Installation – Freedom High School – Change Order Deduct
- D. Authorization to Restore Capital Reserve Funds – HVAC System Upgrade – Freedom High School Data Center – Change Order Deduct
- E. Authorization to Expend 2007 Bond Funds – UGI Natural Gas Extension Costs and Relocation Costs – New Broughal Middle School – Reduction
- F. Authorization to Expend 2007 Bond Funds – New Broughal Middle School Construction Project – Construction Testing – Allowance Increase
- G. Authorization to Expend 2007 Bond Funds – Liberty High School Additions and Renovations Project – Change Order
- H. Private Transportation Contracts

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:27 p.m.

Minutes prepared by:

Kristen M. Snyder, Secretary to the Director of Facilities and Operations

Scott T. Gilliland, Director of Facilities and Operations