

**BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD FACILITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2010**

Mrs. Michele Cann, Facilities Chairperson of the Board of School Directors, called the meeting of the Board Facilities Committee to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, August 2, 2010, in the Superintendent's Conference Room of the Education Center. Present were School Board members Loretta Leeson, William Burkhardt, Michele Cann, Rosario Amato, Michael Faccineto, Aurea Ortiz, and Eugene McKeon. Also present were Dr. Thomas Persing, acting superintendent of schools; Stacy Gober, assistant to the superintendent for finance and administration; Scott T. Gilliland, director of facilities and operations; Arif Fazil, D'Huy Engineering, Inc.; Ann Behers, operations manager; JoAnn Durante, principal of Liberty High School; and representatives from the press.

The following items were discussed:

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR TO VISITORS –

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS –

Mrs. Durante introduced agenda item number two, Boy Scout/Eagle Scout Project at Liberty High School. She stated that the boy scout/eagle scout project up for proposal would be presented to the board by the junior and senior class of Liberty High School. She explained that the project entailed converting the parcel of land behind the marquee on Elizabeth Avenue and Linden Street into a park like setting. She believed that when the property was bought from the farmer, a condition of the sale was that this piece of land remains a park. Mrs. Durante said that this project cannot progress any further without the board's permission.

Austin Swain stated that he was life scout/boy scout from Troop 318 who was seeking to complete his Eagle Scout project. The idea of turning the grass area on the corner of Elizabeth Avenue and Linden Street into an area that can be used by seniors for lunch privileges was well received by many students. The area would include pavers, walkways, benches, and tables; this area would also be used by study halls and art classes. The committee who would help complete this project consisted of members of the junior and senior classes, teachers, guidance counselors, vocational-technical staff, and some businesses from the area.

Daniel Candelario stated that he would like to thank the following people and business on behalf of the project's committee: the Kellogg foundation grant, the Gates foundation, D'Huy Engineering, Inc., as well as numerous other companies for their donations to the project. He said that the project will be supervised by Cathy Moore, assistant principal of Liberty High School, as well as Mrs. Durante. Mr. Candelario also said that it may be possible that community service hours could be earned by students who work on the project.

Justin Ammann said that he would like to thank the board for considering this project. He said that the project will not cost the school district any money; any items that need to be purchased will be paid for by the graduating classes of 2011 or 2012. In speaking with the neighboring homes that surround Liberty High School, Mr. Ammann said that they found this a great way to honor and celebrate the students of Liberty and noted that this project will be an excellent way to bring the class together.

Mrs. Durante asked for the board's permission to proceed with the project.

Mrs. Cann believed that the project was an excellent idea and wanted to know how big of an area the park would cover.

Mrs. Durante explained that the area would start at the rear of the marquee and extend over the entire corner lot that is currently grass. This entire area would be fenced in up to the marquee; the fence would match to the one that currently exists at Liberty. Mrs. Durante noted that the students who would be working on this project would not be installing the fence; it would be professionally installed.

Mrs. Leeson asked if the administration has reviewed the plan for the park to ensure the safety and security of the students.

Mrs. Durante answered that the administration has reviewed the plan, but the students cannot go any further until the board authorizes them to proceed with the project. Further phases of the project will be brought before the board for their review.

After discussion, the board authorized the students to proceed with the next phase of the project.

Mr. Yasso then explained item number three on the agenda, Turf Project Update. He provided the board with an extensive verbal history of the stadium turf project. Mr. Yasso also noted that he would like to see a turf field installed at Freedom High School as that was part of the original plan.

Mr. Gilliland asked the board to keep in mind that the turf is six years old and should be replaced approximately every ten years as the fibers breakdown from the ultraviolet rays.

Mr. Fazil explained that only the surfacing materials will need to be replaced at an approximate cost of \$300,000 to \$400,000. He noted that the turf field has exceeded its anticipated use.

Mr. Yasso said that when a field such as a stadium field is grass, its use is limited to approximately nineteen events per season as the grass wears easily.

Mrs. Leeson thanked Mr. Yasso for his explanation of the turf project and noted that it was helpful to have a full understanding of its history. She said that the stadium was a wonderful and well used facility, but the district must consider that it has to maintain the current facility before taking on any additional responsibilities or adding new fields.

Mr. Fazil then explained number six on the agenda, Energy Update. He said that he wanted to show the scope of the five solar projects that were approved by the board. Mr. Fazil showed the board a PowerPoint presentation of the different variations of solar panel mounts and explained the projects in detail. He said that three of the schools would have ground mount solar panels installed, one school would have a roof mount installed, and one school would have a solar canopy installed over the parking lot.

Mr. McKeon asked if the solar panels that will be installed as a canopy in the Freedom High School parking lot would create a glare for the residents who live near the property line.

Mr. Fazil answered that the solar panels are a matte finish that do not reflect the sun. The panels will be placed approximately thirty feet from the property lines of the school so they will not be intrusive to any surrounding houses or property.

Mr. Fazil then introduced item four on the agenda, Liberty High School Baseball Field Update. He explained that the netting system that was proposed for this field will have a ten foot opening at the bottom of the net and will not block spectator's views. This project will cost between \$30,000 to \$40,000. A second option that was proposed was to install a dome like backstop; however, this backstop is more expensive and will not address the trajectory issue.

Mrs. Gober asked what the life span of the netting was.

Mr. Fazil answered that the netting should last approximately fifteen to twenty years.

Mr. Burkhardt asked how the project will be paid for.

Mrs. Gober answered that bond money that was allocated for Liberty High School renovations could be used to pay for this project.

After a poll of the board, it was decided that this item would appear on the regular board meeting agenda.

Mr. Gilliland then explained that for number five on the agenda, Broughal Middle School Planetarium Seating Update, the administration was asked to investigate if there was an alternative plastic seat that could be installed instead of the reclining cloth seats.

Mr. Fazil said that there is not a reclining plastic seat made that would be able to be installed in the planetarium. He said that he cannot find an inexpensive plastic seat that would be suitable.

Mrs. Ortiz asked how much money has been invested in the Broughal Middle School planetarium. She believed that if a large investment has been made, then the district should provide appropriate seating for the students.

Mrs. Leeson said that the district spent the money to have the planetarium built, but it was never agreed to provide the items to furnish it.

Mrs. Ortiz said that she believed that the district must invest in the students. She felt that they were being “short-changed” by not having the proper seating for the planetarium.

Mr. McKeon stated that there was no intent by the district to “short-charge” the students at Broughal Middle School. He agreed with Mrs. Leeson’s statement by saying that the district could afford to build the planetarium, but not to furnish it. He said that the district should pursue donors for the planetarium seating.

Mrs. Leeson said that the students can continue to use the planetarium the way that it is currently set up.

Mrs. Cann believed that there were other concerns that should be addressed before the planetarium seating for Broughal is considered. One of those items was Nitschmann Middle School as the building is in disrepair.

After further discussion, it was decided that this item would appear on the regular board meeting agenda.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE AUGUST 16, 2010, REGULAR BOARD MEETING –

After discussion, the board committee agreed to bring the following agenda items to the August 16, 2010, Regular Board Meeting:

- A. Authorize the Administration to Prepare and Solicit Bids for Broughal Middle School Planetarium Fixed Seating Installation and Submit the PDE Self-Certification Approval
- B. Authorize the Administration to Prepare and Solicit Bids for Liberty High School Baseball Field Netting System and Submit the PDE Self-Certification Approval

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR TO VISITORS –

Steven Antalics, 737 Ridge Street, Bethlehem: Mr. Antalics questioned the setup of the ground mount solar panels. He wanted to know if the solar panels have been tested for vandalism.

Mr. Fazil answered that a six foot high fence will be placed around the solar panels and they are highly resistant to vandalism.

OPEN FORUM –

Mrs. Ortiz asked if the vacant position for the Donegan Elementary School assistant principal would be discussed.

It was answered that this would be discussed in executive session.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m.

Minutes prepared by:

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

Scott T. Gilliland, Director of Facilities and Operations