



Lowell City Council

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Municipal Facilities SC Joint with School Facilities SC Minutes

Date: July 12, 2022
Time: 5:00 PM
Location: 375 Merrimack Street, Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA/Zoom Hybrid

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call (5:30 PM) were C. Leahy; SC Doherty; SC Lay; and SC DelRossi. Absent C. Gitschier and C. Robinson. Also present were Mark Byrne (DPW); Shawn Machado (Asst. City Mgr.); Conor Baldwin (CFO); C. Nuon; C. Mercier; and C. Scott. Present from School administration was SC Martin, James Hall, Ricky Underwood and Billy Jo Turner.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

C. Leahy called the meeting to order noting purpose of the meeting and indicated that it was an informational meeting only with not votes due to attendance.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Mr. Underwood provided report on window and screen replacement noting that window replacements are costly. SC Doherty commented on cost analysis indicating \$200,000 for replacements and/or repairs. Mr. Underwood explained why there were so many reports and how they differed. C. Leahy noted all partners need to meet and get a plan as resources are available. Mr. Byrne commented on money being spent on facilities and that the City will continue to do that even as supply chain issues persist. Mr. Byrne noted that bid/quote process can be time consuming as well. C. Leahy noted that not all windows need to be addressed at LHS due to construction. SC Doherty noted the need to prioritize. Mr. Byrne commented on repairing ventilation systems within schools are costly and they are providing much needed resources to the issues. SC Martin noted the need for continued meetings. SC DelRossi noted that the City was not paying nearly enough to maintain the properties. Mr. Baldwin outlined the extensive financial resources going toward the buildings and identified the funding sources; including MSBA, Capital Loans, ARPA and LHS project. SC Lay questioned if bathrooms are adequate. SC Doherty commented on operation of doors and lock. Mr. Underwood noted exterior doors are secure but classroom doors are in need of more attention.



Meeting was open to public, Paul Georges, addressed the body. SC Doherty commented on the commitment from the City. Mr. Baldwin outlined the amount of tax payer dollars going to projects and disagreed with some of Mr. Georges' factual statements. Mr. Baldwin indicated that the City has been well over the limit of Net School Spending for many years and continue to do so in this budget in the amount of seven million dollars. C. Leahy noted that the school administration had rescinded commitment of 14.5 million dollars which leaves a gap in funding currently. Ms. Turner indicated it was rescinded due to not being cash funded by City in an amount that they agreed with and noted school has over an additional 60 million dollars in ESSR funding not yet appropriated. Mr. Baldwin noted that he is not sure of the 6 million dollar cash reduction as indicated by school administration but recognized a 3 million dollar cash reduction with an overage of 7 million dollars in Net School Spending. Ms. Turner indicated that there was a 3 million dollar reduction by the City but they included and additional three million dollars for next year based on assumptions. C. Leahy noted that the school administration should honor their commitment of 14.5 million dollars to facilities. SC Martin indicated that there should be a review of ESSR appropriations.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by SC. Lay seconded by C. Leahy. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.

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