



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Connecticut

Citywide School Building & Stewardship Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 11, 2021 via Zoom

I. Call to Order: The meeting called to order at 4:32 p.m. by Ms. Rivera.

Attendance: Ms. Yesenia Rivera, Chair, Mr. Matthew Wilcox, Alder Jody Ortiz, Mr. Michael Gormany, Ms. Aicha Woods, Mr. Giovanni Zinn, Dr. Whyte.

Staff: Staff: Ms. Lil Snyder, Mrs. Salina Manning, Mr. Thomas Smith, Mr. John Barbarotta, Ms. Lauren Strillacci

II. Election of Committee Chair **On the Motion by Mr. Gormany seconded by Mr. Wilcox to Nominate Mr. Giovanni Zinn as Committee Chair.**

Mr. Gormany, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes; Mr. Zinn, Yes; Ms. Snyder, Yes; Alder Ortiz, Yes; Ms. Woods, Yes; Ms. Rivera, Yes, Dr. Whyte, Yes.

III. Election of Committee Vice-Chair **On the Motion by Mr. Zinn seconded by Mr. Gormany to Nominate Mr. Wilcox as Committee Vice-Chair.**

Mr. Gormany, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes; Mr. Zinn, Yes; Ms. Snyder, Yes; Alder Ortiz, Yes; Ms. Woods, Yes; Ms. Rivera, Yes, Dr. Whyte, Yes.

IV. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes 2.11.2021: **On the Motion by Mr. Wilcox seconded by Mr. Gormany to approve the January 14, 2021 Minutes as presented.**

Mr. Gormany, Yes; Mr. Wilcox, Yes; Mr. Zinn, Yes; Ms. Snyder, Yes; Alder Ortiz, Yes; Ms. Woods, Yes; Ms. Rivera, Yes, Dr. Whyte, Abstain.

V. School HVAC Filters – Checks/Balances

Mr. Barbarotta states they are collaborating with the administration to have checklists in place, and the Filter change in the program going forward.

There is a tentative plan that we are going to present to the Finance and Operations committee meeting on Monday. Around this time last year everyone was attempting to obtain Merv 13 filters. What was done was Merv 13 were being used as the Pre-Filter and Final Filter.



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What we are finding out now, are that having a Merv 13, as a Pre-Filter is overly restrictive to the air quality; in the sense that allergens do not reach the final filter in place. It will also be required that filter changes happen every 30 days maximum. He thinks the CDC will come around and eventually go back to Merv 8 as the Pre-Filter and continue to use Merv 13 as the final filter. But a program is being put together to show the Board other options as well, and show them the schedule and what it would cost to maintain. We have received our most recent shipment of filters and the should be changed within the schools sometime in May.

Mr. Zinn states that the non-Board of Ed. Side of the City has done something similar and agrees that a Static Pressure test can be done to test the efficacy of the Final filter in place. He adds that he wants Mr. Barbarotta to discuss the concerns of some of the filters at some of the schools that seem to not have been replaced even prior to Covid.

Mr. Barbarotta states that the implementation of the checklist will ensure accountability and diligence regarding the matter. The checklist will be separated by School signed by the person whom changed the filter. Mr. Zinn asks if it will be available electronically or will it be on paper only? Mr. Barbarotta states that it will be both for ease of accessibility.

Ms. Woods asks in regard to the more frequent changing of the filters, would that require any additional staffing? Mr. Barbarotta explains that he will be presenting to the board how to handle the situation. Ms. Snyder asks about the frequency of the filter changes prior to COVID. Mr. Barbarotta states that the requirements varied as the filters were updated in the code. He adds that Merv 13s are expensive and require changing more frequently, so the budget on Filters will increase from ~\$50,000 to ~\$220,000.

**VI.
Commissioning
Schedule
Updates:**

Mr. Smith presented the monthly update regarding the schools.
See Page 4 of Other Materials

Mr. Zinn asks when Mr. Smith believes the schools with be done and closed out. Mr. Smith states if all goes well, approx. 60-90 days.

Ms. Snyder inquires on the retainage for the contractors. Mr. Smith states the majority of the ones that are completed have been signed off as complete, and some release that are still retainage being held on the CMs and on any contracts that haven't been settled. There is a substantial contingency left on each of the jobs so that will be coming back for a credit change order for each of the jobs when done.



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VII. Stewardship Report:

Mr. Barbarotta states the pool project at Career has been drained and put out to bid, and company has been awarded project. As well as some ductwork and the lighting above the pool as well. Martinez pool which we have a huge issue there with the dehumidification system. Specialist needed to provide the specification of the dehumidification system.

Fair Haven and Wexler boilers are in the process of awarding the contract and due to begin work. Hot water tanks are also in need of replacement, PO requisition for Coop, Bishop Woods, and Lincoln Bassett.

Commissioning assessment of all the schools HVAC systems. Price quote for \$184,000 from Collier's. Working on two more prices. Fuss and O'Neil was hired to do the assessments. Assessments are ongoing. Systematically going through all reports and fixing requirements first and recommendations next. There are also a list of new upcoming projects that are in the works for the coming year.

Mr. Zinn adds that a big part of the City's mission/response to climate change is also building electrification, and looking into some of the ways boiler replacements are doing with adequate tracking systems. Ms. Woods adds that she hopes the work being done is not just like for like, and takes into consideration he needs of the district.

See Page 5-8 of Other Materials for full report.

VIII. Non-Priority Grant (Sound School)

Ms. Strillacci provided an update stating that the Business Office has been finalizing the draft of the submission for releasing the bid for the Grant. The hope is to apply by the end of this year, so the work can be completed next year, but we need a cost estimate to apply. Mr. Zinn asked about the Type of Roof that will be placed on Sound School. Mr. Barbarotta states that samples will be done with the current state but states that he believes it will be a membrane roof. Ms. Ortiz asks if students will be allowed in the School even if the roof isn't fixed until next year? Ms. Strillacci answers yes , the leaks are isolated to certain rooms, and those students and staff have been moved around to other areas of the school in the meantime.

IX. Alliance Grant (Sound, Wexler, Fair Haven School)

Ms. Strillacci states that the funds were received from the State on February 18, 2021, the boilers at Wexler and Fair Haven the business office is currently in the contracting phase with the vendors. There may be a small issue that some of the work may need to be sub-contracted out to local contractors, but were in the final phases.



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X. Other Business

Ms. Strillacci announces that she and Ms. Aicha Woods have been working on a submission for the Green School Yards Grant that could provide up to \$20,000.00 in technical assistance to help us plan and implement a Broader Green Schoolyard Program for the District. This was done in collaboration with City Plan Dept. and few others with Common Ground. The Grant has a short turn around and we should know by April 5th if we were awarded or not. Should have an update at the next meeting.

Adjournment:

On the Motion by Mr. Gormany, seconded by Mr. Wilcox, it was voted by roll call to adjourn at 5:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Salina Manning

Salina Manning

Executive Administrative Assistant