

**Transcript of Board of Education Meeting  
March 31, 2021**

Mr. Buono:

It looks like we have all Board members present. Let me call the meeting to order, I have 7:01. Board members present, all Board members are present, except Michele Skumurski, who had a commitment, I think her daughter is playing Lacrosse. Yeah, in person, I have JoAnn, Deanna and Frank and myself, and then virtually I have John Dunn, Jennifer Massey, Kathleen Curtin and Mark Mann, also present at the Board meeting. Eight of the nine members, so with that, please rise and join me in the pledge.

Group:

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Mr. Buono:

The purpose of tonight's meeting is to really discuss bids for a project, as we said last meeting, and then maybe any updates we might have the budget, given the state... Where they are the status in terms of the State budget. So with that first order of business will be the public forum, and I'll read our information and we do have the emails posted Peter? I'm good to go?

Mr. Buono:

Residents, students, employees, and business representatives of the East Greenbush Central School District may address the Board on matters concerning programs and/or operations of the district, other than matters involving personnel. Members of the Board do not directly respond to citizen concerns during the Public Forum. If a response is appropriate either the President or Superintendent will contact the individual in the near future. Those persons wishing to address the Board will be recognized by the chair of the meeting and should state for the record their name and address, or affiliation with the District or business. While the Board does not wish to infringe upon free speech protections, it must be stressed that the "Visitors' Forum" is not deemed to be an "open forum". The Board president will conduct the forum for the orderly and efficient operation of Board business. In addition, any remarks which may be considered defamatory or stigmatizing are prohibited and will be declared out of order.

Mr. Buono:

So, as we have done in the past or virtual, we have an email set up for the public to send any comments. Linda, do we have any comments?

Ms. Wager:

There are no comments.

Mr. Buono:

So rather than going to the board at this point, and view our the agenda this year is this, this meeting is the federal business. And we're going to talk about the bids for the phase three project. And we have some guests here so I'll turn over to get some silence.

Mr. Simons:

I appreciate the board and the administrative team making themselves available for an extra meeting this month, the timing of the beginning of our construction on phase three of the project, it's important that we get the board's approval for the bids, and to answer any questions that you might have because we would like to start the work May or the spring. So Lynn Ellsworth, who is our construction manager from Sano Rubin and Steve Wickman, who was on virtually from March Associates and Bickel, who is our Director of Facilities, are here give a brief overview of the scope of the project, phase three, as kind of a reminder, and then also discuss how the bids came in and our recommendations for award. So I... Whoever wants to start Paul or Lynn feel free to step forward, just try to remain at socially distanced as you can.

Paul Bickel:

All right. I just want to repeat what Mr. Simons said. We really appreciate the board taking the time to have this extra meeting. It's going to give us a jumpstart on our phase three of the project. We just got bids in last week and the purpose why we really want this extra board meeting is to be able to get this approved and mainly for the contractor's sake because of COVID there's long lead times on a lot of materials. So things that are needed... To start this summer, we want to get on order as soon as possible. So again, thank you everybody. Here in person and here virtually for chiming in this evening, just a couple of notes.

Paul Bickel:

We are going to be going over. There's actually six different things that went out to bid tonight we're here to approve five of them. The one that will be approved at the next board meeting, hopefully is the site work. And we need a little extra time on that just to confirm turf types and things like that, finalize and get that to the board. So we're hoping to have that all done actually within the next couple of days and then we'll send a letter to the board also regarding that part of the phase. So with that, I'm going to turn this over to Steve Whitman, our architect, and he is going to give everybody a basic refresher on phase three and what's expected to happen.

Steve Wickman:

Thanks, Paul. Very similar to the work we did at phase two, we're going to be doing that same similar type work in phase three, just at a different building. So in phase three, we're concentrating on Citizen Genet, Bell Top, DPS and Columbia? I'll give you a very brief overview on what we're doing at each one of the buildings. So at Citizen Genet, we're doing some pavement replacement work. That's the district office pave from the side of the building and back by the playground, we're going to replace those locks. We're replacing a majority of the windows in the building as part of the project. We're doing toilet room reconstruction that's mostly public toilet rooms, similar to what we did at Green Meadow. We're refinishing the gym floor. We're doing some stone, masonry restoration work. That's the coping stone around the perimeter of the building that's been covered up.

Steve Wickman:

And we've got some mechanical work for rooftop units and water heater replacement. So in a synopsis, that's the general for Citizen Genet. And I probably missed a couple of smaller items, but that gives you a flavor of what we're doing there. Very similar work at Bell Top that we did at Green Meadow last year, we're doing the classrooms with the enlarge ADA bathroom, cubbies, same type of work, little bit different configuration cause they're different sized rooms at Bell Top. We're also doing the public toilet rooms we're reconstructing those, and that includes some asbestos abatement.

Steve Wickman:

We're refinishing the gym floor, just like we did it at Green Meadow, and Red Mill. We are... We're removing some old plumbing equipment, including a tank, reroofing the original building and the 98 and 95 classroom additions. We're repaving the lower parking lot and we're doing some lighting control in the building the lighting controls are pretty updated and pretty shop.

Steve Wickman:

Very similar over at DPS. We are doing classroom renovations with an enlarged ADA bathroom. We're doing public toilet room reconstruction for ADA accessibility. We're refinishing gym floors. And at this building as well, we're doing some reroofing work on the original building. The asphalt portion... Or the slate portion. We're actually going to use a synthetic slate that matches the look of the original. And we're doing rubber roofing on the 56 and 98 additions. We are repaving the front entry drive in the front parking lot as part of the project. And there's lighting control work to do at this building as well.

Steve Wickman:

At Columbia High School there's a couple of chillers that need to be rebuilt. We're doing that with Trane under state contract. We're replacing the hot water heater. We've got some minor revisions in the tech room spaces. We have a gym wall draw curtains to complete in the main gym. A seemingly insignificant items that's very important is we're going to enclose the entryways, the canopy soffits. So the birds can't nest in them anymore and create whatever difficulties they create. So, that all gets closed in the front steps are probably one of the biggest items at the high school that we're taking care of. And of course we have the track replacement and the field placement, and we're also going to suggest we take the alternate to do the student parking lot at Columbia. And like I said, I probably missed a couple of items, but that gives you a flavor of what we're doing very similar to the work that we're going to be doing for phase two schools that we completed last summer, and some are doing this summer.

Mr. Ellsworth:

All right, to give you a quick overview of the bids that came in. We had six bidders for the site work, which we'll be talking about at the next meeting, and we had 20 bidders for the five contracts that we're talking about tonight. There were hundreds of people that we contacted, but that's in your memo. You can read that later or if you haven't already. The interesting thing about these contracts... We were surprised frankly, at the numbers that were received, the expectation going into this through the late winter early spring was that with all the COVID delays and the prices, you probably heard, were going up 75% since a year ago, that there would be some inflation.

Mr. Ellsworth:

So we were figuring somewhere five to 10%. We did an analysis afterwards, after we got the bids, trying to pull out of phase two, the comparable work that was being done to what was good for phase three and the bids this year to your benefit, were anywhere from 18% to 24% less than comparable work last year. The way this hit the market was really good for you guys. What we had heard during the bid process was that people were still looking to get enough work in their backlog so that they were comfortable this summer, that they could keep their labor working. So you folks benefited immensely. So that is really how we got to where we are. And what that means is you've got an opportunity to do even more with... I think Steve is going to work on or tell you about also.

Paul Bickel:

I'll take that part, Steve.

Steve Wickman:

Okay.

Paul Bickel:

Yeah. So we came in quite significantly under. Prior to going out to bid, we had a series of meetings that let us kind of break down based on estimates that Sano Rubin had done internally on the project. We use those numbers to base our bids and what we could feel we could comfortably put out to bid what we could do as base bid and what we could do as alternates. So tonight we're here to ask you to accept everything all base bids and alternates because of the significant underpricing, from what was expected. We turn out with quite a bit of favorability to the district and with that money, we're going to go back and we're going to look at those items that we took out during the meeting. We're going to try to put those back in. So just a quick brief of what we're looking to do at each school at Bell Top originally, they were looking to get some additional paving done there for additional parking lot space.

Paul Bickel:

So we're going to look into that and hopefully gain some parking lot space behind the building. As you know, Halloween and big events at Bell Top there's a shortage parking. So we want to make sure we have... We can get as much in as we can. At Columbia we are going to look to the lighting controls. We originally took that out because that had a number right around a million dollars on it. So that was a big one. We were going to take out and possibly do down the road, we're going to try to put that back in and also do a couple other minor things around this building. Going down to Genet, big win for the district there is the windows at that building. We think we can, as it was put out base bid in alternate, it still was not the complete building. So now we think we can actually complete the building doing the admin weighing.

Paul Bickel:

And also some of the larger window units in the gym and the auditorium. So that's very favorable. Also, something that came out at DPS was the windows. So we're going to put those back in, put that out to bid. This'll be one complete bid package for all the schools here. Let's see, going to Green Meadow. We are going to look to pave the rear lock there and also pave the new student drive that was put in. So we could clean up that area behind there and actually widen it a little bit. So that one issue that came up there, some people can't get out so if we widen the part that's on the school property, they'll be able to seek out past other cars as people are dropping their students off. Going over to Red Mill. We're going to do just a couple minor things. We have a little bit more abatement than we need to do to clean up some things from phase one.

Paul Bickel:

And we're going to do a little extra work on the rear steps at that building the rear platform that was just added. We're looking to look at some steps to that, that go to the right. So you can exit over that way as well. And at Goff, we are just sort of, we noticed we are getting all the roofs done. There was some question as to whether the roofs were going to be left in or out. We had some roofing issues over the last couple months and all the roofs are back in. So that's a good, a big win for the district. So that's a general overview. I mean, overall, it's a big win for the district. And I'm looking forward to seeing what

we can put into this next bid and put out for, to get into this favorable market for pricing. So that's our hope and we'll bring that to you once we have it.

Mr. Buono:

Any questions for the team, Board members? Anybody here? Well, it's very encouraging to hear the bid numbers and extremely encouraging, and I think that will be able to allow us to do those other alternative site work and things like that. Extremely beneficial to the community, to have a lot of that done. Just a quick question on, when the bids go out and come back in. What's... We anticipate that work be done when?

Mr. Ellsworth:

The work that would go out, it's going to take a few weeks for Steve's crew, the architects to get the packages pulled together. Then we get it out on the street's and give people time to do it, In round numbers, we will probably be looking at being able to receive bids in the end of May, which makes this coming summer really tough. We've been looking at the possibility of, Jeff doesn't know about, of doing his office windows during December.

Mr. Simons:

Hahaha, I have a winter coat with a liner and I have a couple of Columbia hats I could wear from Mr. Leonard.

Mr. Ellsworth:

We are looking to see if there are options to start during the school year without disrupting school obviously, so we can get that going before having to pile all that work into the following summer.

Mr. Buono:

Following summer, right. Okay.

Mr. Buono:

No other questions, or comments. All right, excellent job. Good to see we're heading down further down the road of phases and being able to network. So with that, I am needing a motion to approve the resolution regarding the accepting of the bids. John second, Jennifer, all those in favor. Mark is your hand raised? Okay. I think he's six-three, I think he is muted, Peter. The phone... Mark. Six-three. Yeah. Is he muted or no? Okay, all right. I just wanted to make sure Mark if you had any questions. All right. We're moving forward. The resolution is approved. Steve, good job, keep going guys, appreciate it. Thank you for coming tonight. Is that Mark?

Mr. Mann:

I'm good with everything I have no questions.

Mr. Buono:

Thanks Mark. Sorry about that. Okay. Next thing. We have the update on the development of the 21-22 budget.

Mr. Simons:

So we presented the budget at the last board meeting and we are still looking at the expenditure side of the budget while we haven't made any adjustments yet because we're waiting to see what happens with the state budget. It is March 31st. So we would anticipate at the state budget sometime within the next couple of days would be passed. And then we will be able to review that and determine what our revenues will be. And we hope to provide the board with as much information as possible between now and the April 14th meeting and then present what we would be recommending at the April 14th meeting. But we don't have a lot of new information at this time, other than we're awaiting State Aid unless Linda, you have anything you want to add?

Ms. Wager:

Thank you. Unfortunately, I do not have anything to add. We're in the waiting game right now. So hopefully, maybe even tomorrow we'll get some new information.

Mr. Simons:

Could be midnight tonight that I get an email from Assemblyman McDonald that has happened in the past.

Ms. Wager:

We'll wait until tomorrow morning.

Mr. Simons:

We'll keep the board informed and writing about what happens with our final state budget numbers.

Mr. Buono:

Yeah, I think one thing just to keep in mind is with the different funding mechanisms, the revenue coming in from the federal, the state aid. One thing we did this past year about the reserves and the cap reserves to think about doing that again this year, if necessary, for the district to go over that cap this year, there'll be a big issue in terms of that revenue that comes and being able to use that for future years.

Mr. Simons:

Okay, thank you, Mike.

Mr. Buono:

All right. We'll now move to any questions before we move on the board forum. So with the board forum and Superintendent report, I'll start in the library here on my left, Frank, anything? And Deanna is good. JoAnn is good. Now virtually I'll start with Jennifer, anything? You're good. John Dunn? Thumbs up. Thank you, John. Kathleen? You're good. And Mark?

Mr. Buono:

I assume you're good, you're still muted, Mark.

Mr. Buono:

Okay. I don't have anything if Mark chimes in, we can certainly add in any comments he has. I don't have anything. We do have need for an executive session for matters of the personnel discussion. We don't

anticipate any board business after the executive session. So I need a motion to move on to executive session. Deanna, I need a second. Kathleen, all those in favor. Very good. Everybody have a great night. Thanks for the team who came in about the building. And again, no business after the board meeting. So everyone have a good night.