

<u>November 16, 2005</u> Date	<u>Emergency Special Meeting</u> Type of Meeting	<u>Triangle Center</u> Where Held	<u>J. McCoy</u> Presiding Officer
Members Present:	<u>A. D'Alessandro</u> <u>M. Drexel</u> <u>J. Miller</u> <u>T. Perrino (left at 8:00 a.m.)</u>	Members Absent:	<u>T. Faigle</u> <u>T. Harris</u>

Also present: G. Bruno, T. Cole, D. Verboys, E. Cariello, staff, P. Tozzi, Arris Contracting Corporation, and community

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 a.m. by President McCoy.

President McCoy led the Board in the pledge to the flag.

Board of Education Discussion Items:

Phase I Bids

Ms. McCoy introduced Mr. Paul Tozzi of Arris Contracting Corporation who discussed the bids received and the positive reference checks for Piazza Brothers of White Plains, NY.

The Board questioned the process for checking references and whether a background check was done according to standard procurement procedures. Mr. Verboys explained that if the Board did not select Piazza as the lowest responsive responsible bidder, the project could be held up.

Mr. Tozzi stated that references for Piazza were difficult to get because no one wanted to talk about Piazza. The Board had looked into the District's legal counsel investigating the references. However, that would cost thousands of dollars. The Board expected the construction management firm to make a recommendation.

Mr. Perrino stated that when ten references were called, seven of them would not respond. Of the three that did respond, one had a good recommendation and two were in litigation. The Board had concerns regarding Piazza's ability to get the job done. He suggested postponing the vote on the bid to the next Board meeting.

Mr. Miller suggested an investigation through Dunn & Bradstreet, and if it is done for Piazza, it must also be done on the other bidders. It was noted that it is difficult to win in litigation. The District thought that they had the Delcon case solid and it did not turn out that way.

Mr. Tozzi stated that if the Board intended to move forward he could recommend Piazza according to the size of the corporation, its financial abilities, but cannot recommend them based on their references. Mr. Cole stated that if the Board elects to reject Piazza, assuming that they file claim, we will not have enough money to fight this thing. If the Board rejects Piazza, it must set aside money to fight their claim.

Mr. Cole added that it may be advisable to investigate finding space for the administration within the school district. We will need to have a contingency plan in place should the work get delayed and the lease has ended. We do not have any chance at an extension with the landlord. At the time of the renewal, the Board was emphatic that there be no short term extension to the lease in the event that there was a delay in the completion of the administrative office space at the high school.

Mr. Miller asked for a determination from Arris regarding their recommendation the bids so that the Board could make an informed decision. Ms. McCoy stated that the Board must accept the fact that they will accept that recommendation. Even if all of the ducks are in a row at Monday night's meeting, she believed that the Board would still vote "no." She said at the end of the meeting that the Board was no closer to a decision on what they intended to do.

Public Comment: There was no comment.

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Drexel, to adjourn the meeting.

4 aye, 0 nay – Motion Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Board Secretary