

<u>December 15,2005</u> Date	<u>Special Meeting</u> Type of Meeting	<u>Mohansic Cafeteria</u> Where Held	<u>J. McCoy</u> Presiding Officer
Members Present:	<u>A. D'Alessandro</u>	Members Absent:	_____
	<u>M. Drexel</u>		_____
	<u>P. Faigle</u>		_____
	<u>P. Harris (4:20 p.m.)</u>		_____
	<u>J. Miller</u>		_____
	<u>T. Perrino</u>		_____

Also present: Dr. Bruno (left 7:05 p.m.), G. Heller, T. Cole (left 7:00 p.m.), D. Verboys, G. Pitruzzello, staff, community and press.

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m. by Mrs. McCoy.

Mrs. McCoy led the Board and the community in the pledge to the flag.

Public Comment:

Leslie Mandel made comments related to full-day kindergarten, stressing that it is vital to our school system and our town.

Jackie Carbone made comments related to the proposed bond and asked that health and safety items remain in the bond (especially paving and boilers). She also asked the Board to consider air conditioning at the High School auditorium, stating that it is probably a health issue as well.

Anthony Grasso made comments on full-day Kindergarten and related costs, and building needs. He feels these two issues should not be presented in the same proposition.

Liz Kelsey, speaking on behalf of the Early Childhood Planning Committee, asked the Board to remain impartial when considering full-day Kindergarten and presenting it to the public for a vote. She commented on the value of full-day Kindergarten which is desperately needed in this district.

Board of Education Discussion Items:

Action on Bond Inclusions – Mrs. McCoy suggested that the Board proceed with its review section by section for each of the schools. Mr. Perrino prepared a spread sheet and will track the impact for any changes that are made to the Bond.

French Hill School

Motion by Mrs. Faigle, seconded by Mr. Perrino to leave UC 1 (Accessibility to Cafetorium platform) as is in Bond 1.

4 aye 3 nay Motion carried

(P. Faigle, J. McCoy, J. Miller, T. Perrino, aye; A. D'Alessandro, M. Drexel, P. Harris, nay)

Motion by Mrs. Faigle, seconded by Mr. D'Alessandro to leave UC 2 (Entrance to instructional spaces) in Bond 1.

5 aye 2 nay Motion carried

(A. D'Alessandro, P. Faigle, J. McCoy, J. Miller, T. Perrino, aye; P. Harris, M. Drexel, nay)

Motion by Mrs. McCoy, seconded by Mr. D'Alessandro to leave UC 3 (Water cooler location) in Bond 1.

4 aye 3 nay Motion carried

(P. Faigle, J. McCoy, J. Miller, T. Perrino, aye; A. D'Alessandro, M. Drexel, P. Harris, nay)

Motion by Mrs. Faigle, seconded by Mr. Drexel to leave UC 4 (Flammable Container Storage Units) in Bond 1.

7 aye 0 nay Motion carried

Motion by Mrs. Faigle, seconded by Mr. Drexel to leave UC 5 (Safety Shower) in Bond 2.

4 aye 3 nay Motion carried

(A. D'Alessandro, M. Drexel, P. Harris, T. Perrino, aye; P. Faigle, J. McCoy, J. Miller, nay)

Point of Order: Mrs. Harris asked if the Board is voting on over 600 line items. She then asked if the Board could vote on items in blocks as in a consent agenda.

On Site Exterior items, Mrs. McCoy pointed out that there were revisions to #2 Asphalt paving, parking areas, drives and curbs. Mr. Drexel asked for asphalt/paving to be broken out and is opposed to any paving in any of the schools, including concrete walks and other site parking improvements until he receives information he requested. Mrs. Faigle agreed and asked that items be looked at individually. Mr. D'Alessandro doesn't want to pull it out. Mr. Miller was concerned about courtyard renovations, design and soft costs, and concurs with Mr. Drexel on the asphalt and paving. Mr. Perrino commented on the construction cost for paving, walkways and asphalt, and asked if it would be prudent to agree on an allowance for paving areas that have to be done. Discussion followed.

Motion by Mrs. Harris, seconded by Mr. D'Alessandro to leave SE 1 (Courtyards) in Bond 1.

3 aye 4 nay Motion failed

(A. D'Alessandro, J. McCoy, T. Perrino, aye; M. Drexel, P. Faigle, P. Harris, J. Miller, nay)

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Faigle to move to SE 1 to Bond 2.

6 aye 0 nay 1 Abstention Motion carried

(A. D'Alessandro, M. Drexel, P. Faigle, P. Harris, J. McCoy, J. Miller, aye; T. Perrino, abstained)

Motion by Mrs. Faigle, seconded by Mr. D'Alessandro to leave SE 2 (Asphalt paving, parking areas, drives and curbs) in Bond 1.

4 aye 3 nay Motion carried

(A. D'Alessandro, P. Faigle, J. McCoy, T. Perrino, aye; M. Drexel, P. Harris, J. Miller, nay)

Mr. Miller recommended that the Board go with the suggestion from Mr. Perrino to allocate a dollar figure district-wide for paving. Discussion followed.

Motion by Mr. D'Alessandro, seconded by Mr. Perrino to cancel this meeting.

2 aye 4 nay Motion failed

(A. D'Alessandro, T. Perrino, aye; M. Drexel, P. Faigle, J. Miller, J. McCoy, nay; P. Harris left the room at 4:40 p.m.)

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. McCoy that the Board take a five minute recess at 4:45 p.m.

6 aye 0 nay Motion carried

(P. Harris left the room)

The meeting resumed at 4:50 p.m.

Motion by Mrs. Faigle, seconded by Mr. Miller to take the suggestion of Mr. Perrino to remove the paving from each of the locations and allocate a sum of money to be placed in Bond 1.

4 aye 2 nay Motion carried

(P. Faigle, J. McCoy, J. Miller, T. Perrino, aye; A. D'Alessandro, M. Drexel, nay, P. Harris left the room)

SE 2, 3 and 7 at French Hill School were removed from Bond 1. Discussion followed on the amount of the allocation for paving. Mr. Perrino suggested \$1.5 million in Bond 1 for paving; it was \$4.6 million (Mrs. Harris returned at 4:55).

Point of Order: Mr. Miller commented on the need to address the process; the Board must decide if the bond is going out to the public or not. He did not endorse making a motion on each line item. He felt the Board needs to look at each line item and informally agree or disagree and move on.

Dr. Bruno suggested voting on a consent agenda and single out what might raise questions. He suggested the Board make a motion to accept the report in its entirety and then invite individuals to separate out items that they have questions on. Mr. Miller expressed concern about the dollar amount of the bond and what the district and community can afford. Discussion continued. Mr. D'Alessandro didn't work on a number; it was what the needs of the district are. Mr. Drexel suggested the Board continue in a little different vein and made his recommendations. Mr. Miller disagreed and offered his input. He is mindful of the cost of the bond and what may or may not pass. Mrs. Harris felt either the Board decides how to move forward or go back to the committee to decide on a way to present it. Mrs. Faigle felt the committee worked very hard; she embraced what Dr. Bruno said would like to make a motion to accept it as it is, and then address particulars. Mr. D'Alessandro felt the Board should just be voting on the items and move forward. Mrs. McCoy expressed her frustration; she felt the Board should move forward. Mr. Miller endorsed what Dr. Bruno suggested and accepts the recommendation of the Facilities Committee.

Motion by Mrs. Faigle, seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the Bond 1 suggestions as is without any additions and then discuss further the items of concern for each building or across the Board. Discussion followed.

Motion by Mr. Perrino, seconded by Mr. D'Alessandro to amend the previous motion to adopt the bond and present it in 2 propositions, one proposition for \$35 million and one proposition for \$17 million for a total of \$52 million which encapsulates the entire recommendation. He would like to send it back to the Facilities Committee and the experts to segregate what goes into the \$35 million and what goes into the \$17 million. Discussion followed.

2 aye 5 nay Motion failed

(P. Harris, T. Perrino, aye; A. D'Alessandro, M. Drexel, P. Faigle, J. McCoy, J. Miller, nay)

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. McCoy to amend the original motion by Mrs. Faigle, such that it reads that the Board of Education hereby adopts the recommendation of the Facilities Committee regarding Bond 1 and to submit that Bond as is to the community. Discussion followed on the bond process, with input from Mr. Miller and Mr. Drexel. Mr. Drexel recommended that, in addition to taking this vote, the Board think about its next two big decisions in terms of process in dealing with the Superintendent's search and the upcoming budget discussions.

Mr. D'Alessandro asked Mrs. McCoy to take a 5-minute break.

Motion by Mr. D'Alessandro, seconded by Mr. Miller that the Board take a brief recess at 5:30 p.m.

7 aye 0 nay Motion carried

The meeting resumed at 5:50 p.m. and the Board continued its discussion on presenting the bond to the community.

Mrs. McCoy asked the District Clerk to read back the motion that is currently on the floor. It is as follows:

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. McCoy to amend the original motion by Mrs. Faigle, such that it reads that the Board of Education hereby adopts the recommendation of the Facilities Committee regarding Bond 1 and to submit that Bond as is to the community.

4 aye 3 nay Motion carried

(A. D'Alessandro, P. Faigle, J. McCoy, J. Miller, aye; P. Harris, M. Drexel, T. Perrino, nay)

The vote on the original motion by Mrs. Faigle, as amended by Mr. Miller, that the Board of Education hereby adopts the recommendation of the Facilities Committee regarding Bond 1 and to submit that Bond as is to the community.

5 aye 2 nay Motion carried

(A. D'Alessandro, P. Faigle, J. McCoy, J. Miller, T. Perrino, aye; M. Drexel, P. Harris, nay)

Point of Order: Mr. Perrino pointed out that, within the body of the \$51.8 million bond, there were two solutions in dealing with the Farm House. By voting on the bond in its entirety the Board, in effect, adopted both solutions.

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. D'Alessandro to accept the recommendation of the Facilities Committee as to Bond 1 and the option presented by the Facilities Committee that entails the demolition and removal of the Farm House.

6 aye 1 nay Motion carried

(A. D'Alessandro, P. Faigle, P. Harris, J. McCoy, J. Miller, T. Perrino, aye; M. Drexel, nay)

Mr. Perrino noted that the total of Bond 1 is \$51,615,496.26.

Mohansic School – Mrs. McCoy discussed decisions that needed to be made on Option A or Option C. One entailed adding another classroom; the other was to place an A.D.A. compliant bathroom and not add an additional classroom. Discussion followed.

Motion by Mrs. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Faigle to adopt the Kindergarten classroom add-on for the purpose of grouping and larger classroom space (Option A). Discussion followed.

6 aye 1 nay Motion carried

(A. D'Alessandro, M. Drexel, P. Faigle, P. Harris, J. McCoy, J. Miller, aye; T. Perrino, nay)

French Hill School – John Wells asked how many classrooms were planned. Adding only 2 rooms would not be enough; his preference was that 3 classrooms be added. Mr. Wells asked that the Board consider class size as well as full-day Kindergarten. Mr. Miller embraced the recommendation of the Facilities Committee in what they believe is the most appropriate method to address full-day Kindergarten. Mr. Perrino would like to re-examine the issue prior to finalizing the Bond on January 9th. The Facilities Committee will meet again to address this and they would like to have Mr. Wells present. The date was set for January 5th.

Mohansic School – Suzie Berry thanked the Board for supporting Option A. She explained that the empty room that shows on the map will be used as Speech or Social room. Mr. Miller stated he would endorse the recommendation of Facilities Committee regarding the French Hill classrooms, should the recommendation regarding the number of rooms change. Mrs. Harris commented that, if we are going ahead with construction, let's make sure it is done the right way and hope that the architects get it right. Mr. D'Alessandro pointed out that the architects drew what we directed them to do. They did not have a say in this.

Full-day Kindergarten:

Motion by Mrs. Harris, seconded by Mr. D'Alessandro to include full-day Kindergarten in the original Bond and not have it presented as a separate proposition.

Discussion followed. Mrs. Harris discussed the importance of full-day Kindergarten. Mr. Miller questioned having the costs related to the Alternative High School in the primary Bond while full-day Kindergarten was not and both are non-mandated programs. Mr. Perrino offered that the Alternative High School is not an expansion of its program while full-day Kindergarten is and has additional operating costs. Discussion continued on the distinction of the merits of mandated and non-mandated programs.

Vote on the motion:

2 aye 5 nay Motion failed

(P. Harris, J. Miller, aye; A. D'Alessandro, M. Drexel, P. Faigle, J. McCoy, T. Perrino, nay)

Alternative High School – The cost to build a new facility for the Alternative High School is more than \$2.8 million with some funds allocated for repairs in Bond 1. The Board discussed whether or not to place the additional funds in a separate proposition.

Motion by Mrs. Harris, seconded by Mr. Drexel to move forward with a recommendation to build a new Alternative High School building. Discussion followed.

2 aye 5 nay Motion failed

(M. Drexel, T. Perrino, aye; A. D'Alessandro, P. Faigle, P. Harris, J. McCoy, J. Miller; nay)

Mrs. Harris noted that air conditioning at the High School auditorium is not part of the Bond. She asked if she could bring requests forward in separate propositions for items not covered in the Bond. Discussion followed on the cost of air conditioning, additional athletic space and lighting. Mr. Perrino reviewed the amounts included in Bond 1 for lighting, construction and other related needs (i.e. ventilation). Discussion continued on air conditioning and heating. Mr. Miller reiterated that he endorses sending the full package out to the community.

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Harris to incorporate into the Bond as previously adopted by this Board to present to the community air conditioning for the High School auditorium and cafeteria and upgrade to electric and any construction necessary to the windows in the High School, first or second floor, to allow for air conditioning.

2 aye 5 nay Motion failed

(J. Miller, P. Harris, aye; A. D'Alessandro, M. Drexel, P. Faigle, J. McCoy, T. Perrino; nay)

At the meeting of January 9th the Bond propositions will be finalized. Mr. Miller asked for a cost analysis from the architect on those items listed in the previous motion. Mrs. McCoy noted that this option was not presented to the other schools in the district. Mr. Miller asked then to consider electric upgrades and window reconfiguration district-wide and what the least cost method would be. Final decisions could be made on January 9th.

Mrs. McCoy asked to add the Superintendent Search to the agenda.

Superintendent Search – Mrs. called Hazard & Young and expressed concern about the lack of familiarity with our area. After further discussion she felt comfortable sending questions out to this company. Mr. Miller feels there should be more than 1 search firm and suggested submitting questions to Hazard & Young who should, in turn, have their responses back by next Friday. Discussion followed on the scheduling of interviews. Mr. Drexel talked about the process of elimination. He suggested sending the questions to Hazard & Young and not wait for a response before beginning interviews. Mr. Drexel questioned the selection of questions for the questionnaire.

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Perrino to submit all the questions to Hazard & Young to respond to by next Friday.

4 aye 3 nay Motion carried

(P. Faigle, J. Miller, J. McCoy, T. Perrino, aye; A. D'Alessandro, M. Drexel, P. Harris, nay)

Point of Order: Mr. Miller was offended by the abuse and rude behavior imposed by Mrs. Harris on the colleagues of this Board.

Mrs. Harris stated her frustration is not personal toward Mr. Miller or anyone else. The process itself is abusive. Her frustration is pure confusion.

Motion by Mr. D'Alessandro, seconded by Mrs. Harris to interview Focus Consulting Associates, LLC. Group as soon as possible for the job of hiring a Superintendent.

3 aye 4 nay Motion failed

(A. D'Alessandro, M. Drexel, P. Harris, aye; P. Faigle, J. McCoy, J. Miller, T. Perrino, nay)

The date to interview firms was set for January 5th at 5:00 p.m. for 2 firms, or 6:00 p.m. for 1 firm. The Board will define a process; Mr. Miller suggested that members send their material to Mrs. McCoy who will report back to the Board and a decision on the process will be made on December 19th.

Public Comment:

Judy Gianelli responded to comments made this evening that kindergarten is nothing more than babysitting.

Michael Pincas made comments on the importance of full-day kindergarten and his choice of Yorktown schools over Lakeland because of its reputation. Regarding the Superintendent search, Mr. Pincas speculated on the hiring a qualified Superintendent in part because of what goes on at Board meetings

Jackie Carbone wanted to clarify the packaging of the Bond and expressed her concern about infrastructure needs.

Nancy O'Brien made comments on the Kindergarten program and her feelings that our children are being cheated. She is disappointed that full-day Kindergarten is not in the original Bond proposal.

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Harris to adjourn the meeting.

7 aye 0 nay Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clerk