September 5th, 2019 Minutes

Finance Committee Meeting

Present: Daniel Lewenberg, Gordon Gladstone, William Brack, Ann Keitner, Hanna Switlekowski, Edward Phillips, Patricia-Lee Achorn, Charles Goodman, Anil Ramoju and Anja Bernier.

Absent: Arnold Cohen and Ira Miller

1. **School Department Presentation - Dr. Victoria Greer**

Gordon Gladstone, Chair of the Building Committee, provided an update of the High School project.

* Estimate differentials were not significant enough to try and renovate the old building.
* The Building Committee has hired Tappe Architects and P&M Consultants.
* Tappe Architects submitted three scenarios including a renovation, a renovation with addition and a new building to MSBA.
* Tappe Architects have completed the conceptual design and are now on to the schematic design.
* On September 11th, 2019 a submission of the schematic design is due along with a volume of documents.
* The School Building Committee has recommended a budget of $163,000,000 to build the new school.
* The building is being constructed to handle solar panels, but they are not included within the cost.

Dr. Victoria Greer, Superintendent of Schools, presented information regarding Sharon High School.

* The High School is number six in the state of Massachusetts.
* Sharon has committed educators, supportive families and students who value learning and the school should be up to par.
* Current needs include bricks, windows and doors that are cracking, poison ivy and water creeping into the building, the north courtyard walkway cannot be used due to rust, cafeteria food is stored in outdoor refrigerator due to lack of space, missing and damaged floor tiles, damaged and bowing ceiling tiles, electrical and mechanical system issues, breakers are no longer manufactured (steel from 1956), insufficient classroom space, students eating lunch in the hallways and science labs are in converted classrooms that are too small.

1. **School Department Quarterly Financial Review Process - Dr. Victoria Greer, Jonathan Hitter**

Dr. Victoria Greer, Superintendent of Schools, presented an overview of upcoming changes.

* Updates include external evaluation of special education programs and services, measuring culture and climate, walk and talk Tuesdays, Superintendent coffee hours and the potential addition of four elementary schools.
* Strategic objectives include promoting student success, fostering equitable and inclusive learning, providing safe, secure and accessible environments and implementing a consistent curriculum.
* District changes include increasing enrollment and student needs, district and community communication and social/emotional and mental health needs.
* There are currently 640 staff members, 6 support staff and 2500 families being served.

Mrs. Nerlande Mintor, Director of Business Operators and Human Resources, presented the School Departments financials.

* Expended to date: $28,185,163 for FY19 and $28,822,239 for FY18.
* Encumbered to date: $2,518,536 for FY19 and $15,602,616 for FY18.
* Remaining balance for FY19 is $13,125,053.
* Total budget amount: $43,828,752 for FY19 and $42,424,855 for FY18.
* Community education: $2,470,740 for FY19 and $2,977,134 for FY18.
* Athletic: $167,302 for FY19 and $237,408 for FY18.
* Cafeteria: $770,714 for FY19 and $994,023 for FY18.
* Transportation: $487,050 for FY19 and $474,365 for FY18.
* Total: $3,895,806 for FY19 and $4,682,930 for FY18.
* Total grants YTD: $1,422,348 for FY19 and $1,384,272 for FY18.
* Student activity costs: $248,830 for FY19 and $373,308 for FY18.
* Quarter 3 Capital Outlay balance: $210,856.87 and another $320,118.71 for other repairs.
* The district applied for extraordinary relief from the current years circuit breaker.
* Food services and preschool accounts are self-sustaining, and kindergarten is partially self-sustaining.

Jonathan Hitter, Chair of the School Committee, provided an update on the Independent Investigation.

* Dr. Libano is still on administrative leave.
* The current acting principal is Ralph Olsen.
* Mrs. Gavin, the assistant principal and Mr. Fazzio, the Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator have returned to these roles after months of administrative help.
* Nick, the supervising attorney stated that the interviews are wrapped up and Sarah is now completing the findings for drafting.
* Attorney fees for July and August were $8,420.00.

1. **New High School Project Presentation - Architect; Owner's Project Manager (OPM)**

Chris Blessen, Architect at Tappe Architects, presented the New High School Project.

* The proposal is to build a new building on the south side fields of the lot and then do demolition on the existing building after moving the students.
* 140 spaces on Ames street and 70+ on Beech street will remain in use.
* A new bus and car cuing lane will be added to relieve congestion on Pond street.
* A new baseball and softball field will be added as well as three tennis courts.
* The baseball field will include field hockey usage in the outfield.
* The football field will remain as it is today except it will be replaced with artificial turf with environmentally friendly products.
* The track will be resurfaced and finished.
* A couple outdoor classrooms will be added to be more advantageous to community members.
* There will be a main entrance on the North side and a secondary entrance near the lake view side.
* Upon walking in the main entrance, you will find an administrative office, tv studio (Sharon tv can have headquarters there too), a nurse suite and an academic support center (SPED).
* Classroom wings will be identical on each floor with science labs being the head on each floor.
* The SPED rooms on the first floor have bathrooms in them.
* There are two small group rooms on each floor as well as two teacher planning spaces.
* Other included rooms on the first floor are a black box drama classroom, band and chorus rooms, ensemble room, computer science room, gym, locker rooms, kitchen, cafeteria, lounge space and one STEAM lab on each floor.
* Wings will remain the same on the second floor.
* Included rooms on the second floor are a digital art room with a dark room for photography, maker space, counseling/guidance suite, outdoor patio (on roof of cafeteria) and a green roof.

Matt Gulino, Chris Caroll and Kevin Nigro of P&M Consultants, presented the budget for the High School Project.

* Two estimates provided were $125,792,153 from PM&C and $126,612,084 from AM Fogarty.
* Preferred schematic report cost is $121,628,547.
* Total project budget to be submitted to MSBA is $163,000,000.
* Anticipated MSBA grant: $52,917,203.
* Potential district share: $110,082,797
* Estimate per square foot: $519.00.
* 1250 students are the design population.
* September 2022 is the target move in date.
* The Community Education Building is about 2400 square feet, with a cost of approximately $2,000,000.

Krishan Gupta, Finance Director, presented the potential tax increase due to the High School project as well as Library project.

* For the library it will begin with an increase of 1.19% in 2021 then 1.14% in 2022 and drop down to 1.09% in 2023.
* For the high school it will begin with an increase of 3.57% in 2021 then 9.23% in 2022 and jump to its highest at 12.22% for 2023.
* For both projects together the increase will begin at 4.77% in 2021 then jump up to 10.37% in 2022 and reach its highest at 13.30% in 2023.

1. **Updates from the Town Administrator - Fred Turkington**

Fred Turkington, Town Administrator, presented updates from the town.

* Four Daughters should be open sometime in the winter since they just applied for their license a month ago.
* The town has an energy advisory committee and currently has eleven proposals.
* The Board of Selectman have been in conversations with owner of Sharon Gallery and Gate Club regarding billboards near 95 in exchange for mitigation agreement.

# Liaison Updates:

## Sharon Schools - Bill Brack

* 1. **Library - Hanna Switlekowski**

Leann Amend will attend the Finance Committee Meeting on September 16th, 2019.

The warrant is now closed, and funds are available.

* 1. **Planning Board - Arnie Cohen**
  2. **Standing Building Committee - Gordon Gladstone**
  3. **Master Plan Steering Committee - Ted Philips**

The Master Plan is online through the town’s website.

# Documents Distributed Since the Last Meeting

## Sharon Public Schools: Quarterly Update; Organizational Structure; District Plan

# Minutes to be Voted: June 24th, 2019

**MOTION:** by William Brack **SECONDED:** by Edward Philips to approve the June 24th, 2019 minutes **VOTED:** 9-1-0. Patricia-Lee Achorn abstained.

# Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair in 48 hours

* Tri board meeting is on September 16th, 2019.
* The September 23rd, 2019 meeting will be held at the new town hall.
* October 3rd, 2019 will be the following meeting date.

# Adjournment

**MOTION:** by Patricia-Lee Achorn **SECONDED:** by William Brack to adjourn **VOTED:** 10-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned 10:30 pm.