

## **Minutes for Dec 6, 2021 Facilities and Finance Committee**

**Attending:** J Ponds, N Cipriano, P Church and E Scherzer, representatives of Parette Somjen Architects

### **Topics with PSA**

**Nishuane Ventilation system** – The Committee discussed the mention of an unknown ventilation system at Nishuane school. PSA reported that this system was not unknown. There is an antiquated air handling system in the part of the school built in 1923 which includes the auditorium. This system has been mentioned in previous engineering reports. It is a non-working system, but was not recently discovered. It was scheduled to be replaced in the next phase of ventilation repair work in the District. The Committee recommended that PSA representatives talk directly to the Buildings and Grounds department about this system.

**Next Step on Capital Funding for Ventilation** – The Committee discussed the next steps on ventilation (HVAC) improvement. Phase 1 work is almost completed. The project at Buzz Aldrin Middle School included in the resolution passed by the BOE at its Sept 1, 2021 meeting was not completed and the Committee resolved to bring this to the BOE's attention for further action.

The Committee asked that PSA prepare a proposal for their necessary expenses including a time line for the work necessary for them to do everything required for the preparation of a capital bond proposal for the next step of the ventilation work. They expected that a proposal on the ventilation work could be completed in time for a November, 2022 referendum vote. A Capital Funding Proposal for consideration in November should be submitted to the state as early as March, 2022 for inclusion on the ballot in November.

A proposal for work necessary for a larger capital bond proposal for the steps after the ventilation work would follow this.

PSA told the committee that they do not have a ventilation expert on staff and instead they contract out this work to Greg Cheney of the Premier Engineering Group.

**Hillside School Mold Remediation** and testing results from Hillside basement classroom – PSA is planning to come out the week following the Committee meeting to look into the building grading outside of the classroom. (Subsequent to the meeting, PSA looked at the grading of the building and it has shifted which allows water to enter through the basement. Stevens (air quality company) was asked to look into the root cause of the air quality problems, but they informed the District that they were uncertain of the cause. The District has renovated the room and performed another air quality test and that report showed no elevated levels of mold.)

**Watchung playground** – The uncompleted Watchung playground was discussed. It was reported that PSA and the contractor will not sign off on the completion of the playground since a number of items necessary for completion have not yet arrived. No date has been given for their delivery. The Committee Chair observed that people have been using the playground, that

there is no signage up that says that the playground should not be used and that the installed fencing is so low that it does not prevent entry. In that circumstance and without a definite completion date, he asked that other alternatives for opening the playground be considered and that the BOE should seek legal advice regarding liability in the current situation.

**Report on Outdoor/Indoor eating plans** - The Superintendent reported that the District was looking into renting heavy duty outdoor tents with sides to protect against the wind at an approximate cost of between \$55,000 and 60,000 per month. These would allow outdoor eating for temperatures down to 40 degrees. The Committee discussed other alternatives and asked the Superintendent to consider them. The Superintendent reported that parents are allowed to pick up their kids for lunch.

(Subsequent to the meeting, The Superintendent spoke with the Principals and all schools have made adjustments to the lunch spaces to reduce the number of students eating together thus allowing greater social distancing when inside.)