

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 17, 2011
6:00 PM

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Taylor-Moye; Co-chair, Walsh,
Martinez (*arrived at 6:20 pm*)

OTHER(s): Paul Timpanelli, President CEO BRBC
Frank Callahan (public attendee)

Co-chair Taylor-Moye called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

She stated that a quorum wasn't required, since it was only an Informational Session.

Mr. Timpanelli gave an update on the results of the phase-3 executive summary *-he distributed a copies of the Efficiency Study of Bridgeport Public Schools- Submitted by Gibson Consulting Group*. He reviewed that back in March 2010, they completed the phase-3 transparency efficiency analysis for the school system. He explained that the reason for the study was to give the board some tools about the reinvestment in the schools. He said that the board hasn't dealt with the implementation for the recommendations yet. He noted that three to four weeks ago, they received authorization to begin phase-4 with the same consultant, Gibson Consulting Group since everyone was satisfied with their work. The contract was signed and there was one condition of approval, which is to split the work into two pieces to give them the opportunity to review the work. The other condition would be to assign an Advisory Board to oversee the work. They will provide the Board of Education with on site technical assistance.

Council member Walsh asked what the time frame was. Mr. Timpanelli said phase-4 would take seven months.

Council member Walsh asked which items would actually be implemented. Mr. Timpanelli referred to page 3 of the study. He stated that all the items on the list would be implemented, except for the Custodial items and the Transportation items.

Mr. Timpanelli reminded the committee that if they change the start and stop schedules of schools, it will cut down on the number of buses. He repeated that they will provide on site technical assistance to help with phase-4. Once it's presented to the BOE, new items will be found for implementation with the related approvals. He noted that the overall initiative will be between \$12 million and \$13. He noted that the cost for phase-4 will be \$930k; the BOE will contribute approximately \$160k; the city will contribute \$160k; the state will contribute \$250k and the remainder will be raised by BRBC for approximately \$400k. He clarified that ultimately, it's up to the BOE which items get implemented. He referred to page 3 again and stated that they have an agreement to implement six (6) items as listed.

Council member Martinez mentioned the cost \$160k for Crossing Guards. She said with the new schools built, guards have been taken away, which has resulted in the kids having to cross over Barnum Avenue at a big intersection for the school in that district. She recalled that she made a request to have stop signs put in, but it was refused by the police department. She commented that it will take some planning to put them where they belong. Mr. Timpanelli agreed that they needed to be sensitive where they put crossing guards and where they remove them.

Mr. Timpanelli stated that the recommendations came from a poll that was taken around the country to determine what the typical urban area needs in relation to the number of crossing guards, based on the number of blocks ratio. He added that it begs the question of whether it's the city's responsibility to provide crossing guards at every school.

Co-chair Taylor-Moye stated that school guards are needed, specifically in a not very safe neighborhood where a school is located. She expressed that some areas are worse than others, but she emphasized that school guards need to be left where they are necessary. She asked Mr. Timpanelli if they would be notified when a decision is made about the school guards. Mr. Timpanelli said he suggested to Council President McCarthy to have two council members serve on the advisory board.

Council member Martinez asked about the other phase that they planned to do. Mr. Timpanelli said that phase involved doing a 100% operational review of every school, however, it's currently not being planned due to the lack of funding. He noted the cost to do it would have been an additional \$500k.

Co-chair Taylor-Moye asked about the In-Classroom Breakfast. Mr. Timpanelli said it would be done because it's considered a revenue generating savings.

Co-chair Taylor-Moye commented that they need to wait to find out which council members will be appointed to the advisory board to find out what other items will be implemented.

Mr. Timpanelli offered to send a summary of tonight's discussion to the other committee members. Co-chair Taylor-Moye agreed that would be a good idea.

Council member Martinez asked how the board reacted to the recommendations. Mr. Timpanelli said it went relatively well, although there were some concerns.

Co-chair Taylor-Moye stated that she hoped the Board of Education was receptive to all that has been discussed and planned. Mr. Timpanelli replied that to date they have been receptive.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services