

The buildings and grounds committee met via teleconference on July 10, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. with the following: Jill Decent and Barb Neprud. Jamie Skjeveland and Bill Tollefson were also present.

Status of the Building Permit – To date, the school district has been unable to get the building permits necessary to begin moving forward with construction. The demolition has been completed to the extent that further work cannot be completed until the permits are in hand. The issue is that the plans have not been processed through the Code Compliance section of the MN Department of Labor. There are several reasons for this, including getting a later than normal start of planning while waiting for the results of the November bond referendum election, which resulted in Board approval of the project at the February 24, 2020 Regular Board meeting, which provided for submission of plan documents in March 2020. For future planning, the target should consider Board approval several month earlier (December at the latest) to allow for submission in January. To further complicate the issue, there was a significant code change that requires all new school construction to incorporate a safe room into the any brand new school buildings. Schools had not planned for that in their bond referendum budgets, so plan review moved all new construction projects above remodeling projects in the work priority list to get them approved before the code change for safe rooms took effect. Finally, there have been COVID related issues, including work from home and State of Minnesota procedures that include not approving overtime in certain departments. All these factors created the perfect storm that has caused extraordinary delay. In anticipation of supply chain delays, the principals had already begun to make plans for not having this summer’s remodel projects spaces available for the start of school. Those plans will be implemented and construction will continue into the school year, with normal occupants of the remodeled spaces temporarily housed in other portions of the building or programs modified slightly based on certain facilities not being available, such as the junior high locker rooms.

Outside Work -

CRES Bus Loop – Outside work has been able to proceed and progress has been good on the CRES bus loop project. That should be completed under the originally planned schedule.

JV Baseball Field Dugouts – Pipeline Easement – The location of the dugout on the first base line of the JV baseball field encroaches into a forty foot easement that the natural gas pipeline has. After initial discussions and introduction of several options to modify the construction of the dugouts to try to find a solution, the natural gas pipeline has turned the matter over to their legal department. This likely mean that there could be a significant delay. In an attempt to keep the remainder of the project moving the most prudent option appears to be temporarily suspending the installation of the dugouts at the JV field at the present time and allowing the balance of the project work to move forward. The committee agreed to this as the best solution.

COVID Issues Relating to Facilities – The committee reviewed two plans for addressing issues related to the COVID pandemic.

Drinking Fountains – The Return-to-School planning documents provided by the MN Department of Health and the MN Department of Education call for school districts to be able to provide access to safe drinking water. Currently throughout both buildings, the majority of drinking water is delivered through bubbler heads on drinking fountains. There are currently three touchless water bottle fillers at the high school and one at CRES. After a review of the drinking fountains completed in conjunction with a plumber, a plan was developed to cap off existing bubblers in hallways to prevent use and to provide a more vandal-resistant means of preventing bubbler use that signage, tape or an upside down Dixie cup. At strategic locations around the buildings, existing drinking fountains would be retrofitted or replaced to provide touchless water bottle fillers at those locations. At the high school, this would include replacing two original 1976 drinking fountains with touchless bottle fillers – one near the chemistry room and at the northwest corner of the 1976 portion of the building; and replace 2 hi/low drinking fountains with two new hi/lo fountains with touchless bottle fillers near the restrooms upstairs and downstairs in the split level classroom section of the building. This would provide a total of 7 touchless bottle fillers scattered

throughout the building. At CRES the proposal is to add six bottle fillers to six existing drinking fountains located throughout the building – one of each side of the 2nd grade restroom, one additional near the gym, one on the existing fountain in the Family Center, one on an existing fountain near the 5th grade restroom and one on a drinking fountain in the 5th grade pod. The cost of these would be just over \$30,000 and would be potentially funded by CARES Act funding, which would mean that the project would not add to the existing budget deficit. In addition, there would be one additional bottle filler added to the remodeling project between the 3rd grade pod and the media center. In order to get parts on the way, a timely decision on proceeding with this plan was necessary and the committee agreed with the plan and encouraged proceeding immediately. Drinking fountains/bubblers in the classrooms, primarily at the elementary, are more closely controlled and are more controllable than hallway fountains, so it will be up to classroom teachers to discourage use and develop techniques for prohibiting use. The committee encouraged the potential installation of hand sanitizers at each bottle filler location to further promote safety.

Hand Sanitizing Dispensers – The committee also heard plans for the installation of hand sanitizing dispensers in each classroom, likely right inside the classroom door. There was a discussion about preferring automated, touchless dispensers, but an acknowledgement that those might be difficult to acquire and any dispenser was better than nothing at all.

The committee was also updated on the need to approve the 10-year Long-Term Facilities Maintenance (LFTM) plan at the July Board meeting to meet the deadline for submission of the funding application to the MN Department of Education by the July 31st deadline. The plan has not yet been updated and may not be updated until just before it needs to be released with the July 27 Board agenda, so the committee may not have time to reconvene to review the plan prior to consideration by the full Board for approval. The plan is required as a function of obtaining funding and, with the ability to fund some of the projects using bond proceeds, may not be completely accurate in terms of what projects would be funded anyway, so the committee was comfortable with the potential of approval without review if that becomes necessary.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 a.m.

Respectfully prepared and submitted by William Tollefson