

Capital Improvements Subcommittee Minutes
Tuesday, February 9, 2021
4:00 PM-5:00 PM
Remote via Zoom

Capital Improvements Subcommittee Members present: Helen Charlupski (Chair), Andreas Liu, Mariah Nobrega, and Barbara Scotto.

Other School Committee Members present: David Pearlman and Suzanne Federspiel.

School Staff present: Mary Ellen Normen, Matt Gillis, and Robin Coyne.

Others present: Interim Principal of Early Education Regina Watts, Director of Public Buildings Charlie Simmons, and Advisory Committee member Carla Benka.

1) Tents for Spring

Director of Operations Matt Gillis provided a report on tents for school use. He is waiting for a revised quote (under \$90,000). The estimated cost of additional furniture (e.g., individual desks for distancing) is \$56,000. Mr. Gillis commented on potential use of barriers in cafeterias and classrooms. Members requested that staff ask principals for specific information on their plans for using tents, noting the importance of considering the best use of limited funds.

2) Update on Property Leases Budget

Mr. Gillis reported that the administration is going ahead with the leases as planned.

3) Update on Extended Day for Brookline Early Education Program (BEEP)

Ms. Normen and Interim Principal of Early Education Regina Watts provided an update on BEEP Extended Day. Schools for Children will be operating BEEP Extended Day at the Lynch Center and at Putterham. Heath Extended Day will be operating BEEP Extended Day at 2 Clark Road. Ms. Normen provided an update on her discussions with Extended Day Directors regarding the provision of BEEP Extended Day at Schools. Ms. Normen informed the Extended Day Directors that there will be dedicated space for BEEP Extended Day. Ms. Normen explained the mechanics of the Extended Day Licenses/Fees. Members requested feedback from administrators who have worked with Schools for Children, and asked that Extended Day tuitions be as affordable as possible. Members expressed support for the BEEP Extended Day plan, and asked that Ms. Normen continue to provide updates.

4) FY 2022 School Maintenance Budget

Ms. Normen and Director of Public Buildings Charlie Simmons reviewed the request for additional funds for FY 2022 School Maintenance. Mr. Simmons commented that his understanding is that the Financial Plan will not include an increase for inflation. He is hopeful that the Human Resources Board will take action with regard to the HVAC personnel reclassifications. Ms. Normen provided an update on the FY 2022 Budget projected deficit. It is possible there will be additional Federal or State funds. She cautioned against going another year without providing additional support for public buildings. Members asked that Mr. Simmons report back on whether the Human Resources Board takes action, and whether he is able to hire HVAC staff.

5) Approval of Minutes

On a motion of Dr. Liu and seconded by Ms. Scotto, the Capital Improvements Subcommittee voted (by roll call), with 3 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention (Ms. Nobrega) to approve the January 12, 2021 minutes.

6) New Business

Members requested a matrix that shows the cost of bringing back students at three-, four-, and five-foot distances.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.