

Beekmantown Central School District

Operations Committee Meeting

Place: **Conference Room at District Offices**

November 27, 2007

Minutes

Call to Order

Chairperson, Leonard King called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Members Present

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard LaVigne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George Palmer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leonard King	<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Trombley
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Strong	

Others Present

Scott Amo, Superintendent of Schools
Craig Lamoreaux, Regional Manager, Thomas Group
Iris Willis, Project Architect, Thomas Group

Recorder

Jeri Bennett was present and recognized by committee as recorder for Operations Committee Meetings.

Opening Comments

Superintendent, Scott Amo, outlined the mission of this meeting:

1. Interest of Board in stand alone Athletic Complex;
2. Use of EXCEL money and how to utilize monies to the fullest potential with regards to the district's 5 year plan;
3. Ideas on sharing costs of an additional project.

Presentation

Presentation by Thomas Group

Don Strong, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds briefed the group that the district has received SED approval on the CHES Entrance and Main Campus Heating/Air Conditioning Project. He then followed by introducing Craig Lamoreaux and Iris Willis, of Thomas Group. Craig Lamoreaux opened with a summary of the timeline for the commencement of the above project:

- Notice to bidders will go out this coming week (December 3, 2007)
- Bid out by December 10, 2007
- Walk through on December 19, 2007
- Bid opening on January 9, 2008

Additionally, Mr. Lamoreaux shared information with committee that he and Mr. Strong had discussed a priority list of contractors that will receive information.

Mr. Lamoreaux then proceeded to give a presentation on the use of the district's EXCEL monies. Stressing the importance for an immediate plan of action for use of the monies.

Discussion followed on the amount of EXCEL aid available, at this time there is \$6,000,000. Mr. Lamoreaux further explained that of the \$6,000,000, consideration that approximately 20% of that would be allocated as contingency costs, therefore, approximately \$4.0-4.5 million was available for actual use.

Discussion followed as to the direction the Board was heading for use of the money, if and how much did they want to move forward on, and if they were looking at a \$6,000,000 or up to a \$9,000,000 project, using matching funds (1.7 million) from district coffers.

The athletic complex and athletic facilities were discussed at length. Mr. Lamoreaux explained that this could not be funded by EXCEL money, as it was not a Health and Safety Issue.

More discussion followed regarding movement of parking lots, entrance roads, a more aesthetically pleasing grounds appearance around school, re-sodding the existing football field, replacing existing outdoor bleachers, access road to high school gym, redoing student parking lot, parking lot by the football field, etc.

Mr. Strong shared information regarding the West Chazy Building. Mr. Strong, Mr. Amo, and Mr. LaVigne toured the building with the intention of brainstorming ideas for use of the facility. Mr. Amo then spoke to the possibilities for utilization of the building:

1. possible Universal Pre-K building
2. office space – specifically District Offices
 - large gym space converted to a multi-media center for the entire district
 - used as a presentation area for staff development days
 - teaching space

A decision on what to do with the building is an item that needs addressing and placed as a high priority. West Chazy roof repair was also discussed. Since there is no occupancy of the building, Mr. Lamoreaux did not feel SED would allow EXCEL money to be used to repair it.

In closing, Mr. Lamoreaux stated that he had given a time line to Superintendent Amo, for Board perusal, on moving forward with the EXCEL aid. He also stated that if the Board accepted their proposal to begin work on use of the EXCEL aid they would return and present two different scenarios of \$6,000,000 and \$10,000,000 project. Their fee would be \$18,500 from development through referendum, inclusive of two public presentations and six owner meetings.

Prior to Mr. Lamoreaux and Ms. Willis leaving, Mr. Strong acknowledged that there was discussion and agreement that those individuals at Thomas Group who were knowledgeable and experienced with our district would be the individuals that would be continuing on with this venture should the Board chose to retain Thomas Group.

A meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, December 11, 2007, 4:30 p.m., in the District Office pending Board approval of Thomas Group. Mr. Lamoreaux will return at that time to present information requested on \$6m or \$10m project. Alternate date, December 14, 2007.

Mr. Lamoreaux and Ms. Willis left the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Following their departure, Mr. King requested direction from Mr. Strong as to his opinion on retaining Thomas Group. Mr. Strong feels that they are familiar with our district and are aware of the district's prior concerns and he believes they will address our needs most appropriately.

A recommendation will need to be placed as a late item agenda for tonight's Board of Education Workshop Meeting in order to meet the December 11, 2007 timeline. Mr. Palmer did voice his disapproval of business at workshop meetings, but resolved to bring this to the entire Board this evening.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Jeri Bennett