

Buildings & Grounds Committee Minutes
September 12, 2007

Present: Robin Wetmore, Frank Luccarelli, Ana Vander Woude, Barbara Duncan, Michael Petrizzo, Bill Balicki

Absent: Ray Tai

1. Transportation: Bill Balicki provided an overview of what happened regarding transportation issues that developed with the start of school last week. Approximately 3800 students (in and out of district) are transported on 194 routes (Holmdel and contract buses). 28 buses are owned by the BOE and have 3 tier obligations. Last year the BOE hired transportation consultant, Ernie Turner. In late 2006 Mr. Turner helped to complete and file the necessary reports required by the state. Also, he presented a report dated 3/12/07 to the B & G committee detailing Logistical Issues. He recommended revamping our bus routes to maximize use of Holmdel buses to increase efficiency. Cynthia Kuperman began work on 6/1/07 with her first task of mapping the summer school runs. Mr. Turner and Cynthia Kuperman began the task of revamping the routes. When they upgraded our current transportation system (Versa Tran) they lost all the route information from the previous year. In July Cynthia started the routing process manually, this turned out to be very time consuming and presented a challenge to meet the contractual deadline of August 10. Although Bill was in contact with Cynthia by phone his absence made it more difficult for Cynthia to successfully complete the task. In order to meet the deadline, Bill instructed her to complete the remaining routes utilizing the automated mapping option. We now know that using the automated mapping resulted in many of the problems that occurred. Drivers selected their routes (as per contract) August 10, 2007. Bus passes were mailed Friday before Labor Day. Not all bus drivers performed "dry runs" before opening, which contributed to delays. Also, received other complaints not related to routes, i.e.: safety (seatbelts, etc). When school opened it was apparent there were problems with some routes, mainly at Village and Indian Hill. Three routes were identified Owl, Dog and Flower/Christian Bros Academy as the main source of problems. Transportation was flooded with calls and with parents coming to the office. Staff worked evenings and the weekend to sort out problems. The phone system could not handle the volume of calls (messages). Capacity has been increased. Ana asked if there is a privacy issue by sending out the bus passes by postcard rather than a sealed envelope. Michael will research and update the committee. At this time Bill reports that the routes have been revised, new assignment will go home to parents. Village students will wear their "bus stickers" again starting on Monday. They are still working on the problems with the out of district buses (St Benedicts, SJV, RBC).

2. The committee favored accepting two donations:

20 boxes of copy paper from the Jersey Shore Chinese School

1 L shaped computer desk from a Holmdel Family (pending clarification)

3. Central Jersey Devils Use Fee- CJD has asked for a reduction in their fee for a weeklong camp they ran this summer. The attendance at the camp was not as high as they hoped and if they pay our full fee they will lose money. Michael will call them for a "break even" number. It is not customary for the BOE to reduce a fee. Requests by users such as this will be reviewed on an individual basis.

4. 2007-2008 Facility Schedule Update – HYAA has asked for an excessive amount of gym time, with the promise to give back what they don't need. Michael will call the new HYAA president, John Helbock to discuss the situation.

5. Other matters:

Red Cross: Bill has met with the new director of the Red Cross. Holmdel schools have informally been designated as "Disaster Hub". The new director would like to have a written contract, which the Red Cross will provide. Marty Barger will review the contract.

Play Pavilion –waiting for state approval of district facility plan. We can't proceed without approval. Still hoping for a November completion date.

Roggy – Bill has scheduled work to repair some loose stitching as reported to him by Randy Westrol.

Village statue – The PSA would like to move the statue currently located at the old main entrance. Robin will contact Bill about new placement.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 3, 2007 4pm.