

MINUTES OF THE JOINT COMMISSION OF CITY COUNCIL & SCHOOL BOARD

Council Chamber & via Zoom Video Conference

July 1, 2020 at 5:00 P.M.

Committee Members present: Councilors- Martin Dumont, Chairman; Councilor Don Austin; School Board Members- Matt Hanlon & Steve Potter.

Others & Staff present: Mayor Dana Hilliard; City Manager Bob Belmore; School Superintendent Bob Gadomski; and School Board Member Tom McCallion.

Councilor Dumont called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. with a roll call attendance; due to the COVID-19 pandemic the meeting was held remotely via a ZOOM platform. Mayor Hilliard and Manager Belmore were in the Council Chambers for the meeting; Finance Director Scott Smith was also in attendance for a brief period of time.

Past meeting minutes: motion by Austin; second by Potter; approved by roll call 4-0.

Budget Update: Superintendent Gadomski stated that he and his staff had been watching the Budget closely and the School Department anticipates turning back approx. \$450-500K in unexpended funds, however staff was checking on any last arriving bills. He stated the savings was primarily in transportation costs for students as well as special ed. and athletic transportation costs were down. Hanlon mentioned substitute teacher costs were not fully spent. Gadomski also mentioned there was about another \$100K in unanticipated revenue coming back to the City.

School Year Reviewed: Gadomski mentioned the school year was challenging yet exciting and he appreciated the great support received from the Community. Overall, he thought it was a very successful year.

High School Football Scoreboard: Super. Gadomski stated that the approval to use one-time received funds to take care of some School sports scoreboards was going to the next School Board meeting for a vote.

End of Zoom Meetings: Mayor Hilliard provided the group with the overview he had given to the full City Council regarding Council Standing Committees meeting again in person come this September as they are smaller groups who could meet CDC and State guidelines on social distancing. He was not inclined to try to retrofit the Chambers for full Council meetings and may look to hold them in the CTC Black Box Theatre area. The Mayor intended to monitor on-going pandemic date, working with the City Manager on this issue. Gadomski stated he was working with the School Board on some in-person meeting earlier than September as preliminary work to set the stage for staff returning to facilities in early September and perhaps students thereafter. School Board Chair Hanlon stated he was having the School Board test out the Black Box with a meeting next month. Hilliard stated he would ask the Government Operations Committee to continue this examination for City Government meeting process.

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School reopening discussions: Superintendent Gadomski gave a summary of the School's preparations to reopen Schools to students. He mentioned the purchase of UV lighting, temperature scanning kiosks and other needs to prepare and maintain safety protocols due to the pandemic. He stated these units were expensive so they would need to plan appropriately in locating equipment in key areas for their use. He further mentioned that the State Task Force recommendations on reopening as well as the Governor's direction most likely will be to have all decisions to be made at the local level.

Councilor Austin suggested utilizing some of the School Department's funds, being returned to the City, for these purchases; pending any State reimbursements. School Chairman Hanlon expressed his concern on getting these assts sooner than later to avoid any backorder challenges. School Board Member McCallion also mentioned the need to order these equipment assets faster. Mayor Hilliard offered the continuing support shown by the City Council to address School needs has been evident and would be brought to the full Council when and if needed. School Board Member Potter stated that these needs may still be here in another year or two out.

There was a general discussion on the future of educational change and taking what we have learned through the COVID-19 pandemic to further redefine and reshape the educational process. This is an opportunity of sorts. School Board Member Potter mentioned the need to focus on and fund more professional development for staff to meet this new remote learning challenge. There was Commission consensus to support this kind of effort.

Adjournment: motion by Austin, 2nd by Potter; 4-0 roll call vote/ approved at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert M. Belmore

City Manager