

Appropriations Committee

Chairman Brodeur, Tramontozzi, Boisselle,
Conn, Infurna, Seaboyer, Wright, Mortimer
Absent: Buonopane, Forbes, Heavey
In attendance: Mayor Dolan, City Planner
Denise Gaffey, IT Director Jorge Pazos,
Superintendent of Schools Joe Casey

Appropriations Committee is called to order by Chairman Brodeur at 7:08 p.m.

Alderman Mortimer motions to open Public Participation, 2nd by Alderman Boisselle. All in favor. No one comes forward. Alderman Mortimer motions to close Public Participation, 2nd by Alderman Boisselle. All in favor.

Order No. 08-077, APPROPRIATION Amount: \$20,000 From: Available Free Cash
To: Planning, Professional services – AC#011752-529000
These funds will be used to obtain a technology design firm to determine the technological and budgetary needs for technology enhancements at the High School.

Mayor Dolan says this is the first phase of renovations to Melrose High School. This amount of money from available free cash will allow a technology design firm to determine the needs to move forward with enhancements at the high school. The project in two phases serves two purposes: the largest upgrading of electrical capability of Melrose High School allows the installation of Smartboards and enhances the work environment and experience of students at Melrose High School. He has a very aggressive goal to complete the renovation by the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year, including the purchase of Smartboards.

Mr. Pazos says the design of the portion being looked at is to upgrade all data, cable tv, and electrical, including the installation of Smartboards and networking equipment that will support the phone system in the future. They can use the Melrose Middle School as a model; they want to recreate that classroom experience at Melrose High School.

Ms Gaffey says that at this juncture the initial funding request of \$20,000 is being made to implement the very first phase of the design – the feasibility study – to bring in a technology consultant that will team with an electrical engineer and do a thorough walk-through of the high school facility to determine the scope and the budget of the work to be done. That will be a very short turnaround. In order to maintain a September 1 schedule, the feasibility study has to be accomplished in about a month's time. The technology consultant design piece has been initiated already – the RFP was put out a couple of weeks ago and proposals will be in hand on Wednesday. Obviously contracts can't be signed until and unless the funding is allocated by this board. She recognizes it's a very short schedule but at this point only funding for the feasibility study is being requested. A request for full funding to implement the project will be made in January.

Chairman Brodeur asks if the consultant is essential for giving a number for the project. Ms Gaffey says yes. Chairman Brodeur asks if she will be able to commit to the project on Wednesday when the bids are open, if the board approves this tonight. Ms. Gaffey says the City doesn't have to commit. They would like to get authorization this evening and would do a selection process which would take a couple of days. She hopes to sign a contract as soon as next week.

Maribeth Harrington
Clerk of Committees