

A PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BRISTOL COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD

Thursday, November 30, 2017

Taunton Superior Courthouse

A Public Meeting of the Bristol County Advisory Board commenced at 6:05 P.M. on Thursday, November 30, 2017 at the Taunton Superior Courthouse.

Notice of this meeting was issued to all members of the Advisory Board, posted on the County website, in the County Courthouses, published in the Taunton Daily Gazette and sent to the City and Town Halls in Bristol County.

Roll call was taken by Maria V. Gomes, County Administrator, and Nine out of Twenty communities were present for a total of 52.25 percent of the votes out of a total of 100.00.

City or Town	Representative	Vote
Attleboro	Kevin Dumas	7.35
Berkley	Gilbert Pontes III	1.34
Dartmouth	John Haran	9.44
Dighton	Nancy Goulart	1.55
Easton	Dottie Fulginiti	5.77
Fall River	Stephen R. Long	9.36
Mansfield	Jess Aptowitz	6.07
Rehoboth	James Muri	3.04
Taunton	Daniel Dermody	8.33
TOTAL:		52.25

After introducing himself, Chairman of the Board, Attleboro Mayor Kevin Dumas introduced Selectman Nancy Goulart, Clerk of the Advisory Board, Commissioner Paul Kitchen, and Commissioner John Mitchell. All those in attendance were asked to stand to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Dumas asked the Commissioner Kitchen, Chairman of the Bristol County Commissioners to open the discussion of Agenda item #3, *Presentation of the Renovation & New Construction of the Bristol County Agricultural High School Project focus on Option C with a total cost of \$103,750,000.00.*

Commissioner Kitchen explained the process that the Board of Trustees had taken to discuss and bring before the Massachusetts School Building Authority the proposal to expand and renovate the Bristol County Agricultural High School.

The following is a list of School Building Committee members, architects and project managers in attendance.

- Bristol County Agricultural High School:
 - Superintendent, Adele Sands (SBC)
 - Business Manager, Wendy Irons
 - Assistant Superintendent/Principal, Kevin Braga (SBC)
 - Assistant Principal, Robin Van Rotz
 - Natural Resource Management Teacher, Aaron Caswell (SBC)
 - Animal Science Department Chair, Leslie Blanchette

- Ryan Miranda, Facilities Manager
- HMFH Architects: Presenting majority of the slides
 - Laura Wernick, Principal
 - Bobby Williams, Project Manager
- Colliers International: Presenting 1-2 slides
 - Mel Overmoyer, Owners Project Manager

Commissioners Kitchen introduced Ken Raymond the Chairman of the Bristol County Agricultural High School Board of Trustees. Mr. Raymond made some additional introductions of others attending, including the new Superintendent, Adele Sands.

Mr. Raymond explained the review of the Agricultural School building and programs that began six years ago. He discussed the Capital Assets Board and the revision of the 5-yr Maintenance and Capital Plan that was completed for the school and the Committee on Admissions to review admissions and admissions policy all of which have been approved by the State and the Secretary of Education. Additionally, he touched upon the 10-yr Accreditation Review. It was discovered that for every five applicants, the school had been turning away three. Consistently over a ten year period, the Small Animal, Large Animal and Natural Resources Programs had been the most highly sought after in that order. The School Building Committee, chaired by Commissioner Mitchell, voted to increase student enrollment from 450 to 640 students.

The school had deficiencies in its Science Labs & Facilities and classrooms. Mr. Raymond also made note that BCAS was the only operating school dairy in the state. As a result of all the reviews, a Master Plan has been created for the school.

Mel Overmoyer was introduced and explained that they had been hired to assist the BCAS with the MSBA project and the buildout. He explained how the project works with the MSBA and how reimbursement is determined. The MSBA has already committed to the entire scope of the project. He explained how these approvals are given and then there is a lengthy window before another approval may be given.

Laura Wernick and Bobby Williams of HMFH Architects presented a power point presentation on the BCAS project identifying with illustrations and pictures, present and proposed changes resulting from a year's worth of discussions with staff, administration and committees; allowing for the expansion to 640 students and the modernization of teaching facilities and operations. Total project cost is estimated at \$103,750,000.00. The project is also being designed as a high efficiency green project with the hopes of harnessing some additional savings in reimbursement from the MSBA. Mr. Raymond gave a brief review on how the Special Legislation would be filed and the steps that it would take through the Legislature. The Legislation would need to be filed by the end of January.

The Project Manager showed examples of current and former comparable projects that are currently similar in size planned or currently in construction. Examples contained the same number of students.

Commissioner Kitchen reviewed the historical level of applicants as compared to actual acceptances which have been restricted by the current conditions of the facility and its limitations. He explained the steps that would be required in order to obtain the funding to complete the proposed expansion and renovation of the BCAS. He explained that this project would require Special Legislation similar to what the County of Norfolk did for its project. He described debt as a single, per pupil expenditure. He explained how current bonding works with some draft numbers

reflecting a per child cost of \$4,300.00. Commissioner Kitchen would put together some financing information on the debt to be sent to the communities.

Mayor Dumas asked about dates for the Special Legislation, suggested that information meetings be held with each individual community and he asked about what dates the County had to be concerned with for filing.

Mr. Overmoyer stated that the hope was to go before the MSBA with the schematic design in May, 2018. Once the schematic design is approved by the MSBA, the County would have 120 days to secure funding. If everything goes as planned, possibly a groundbreaking for the spring of 2019.

Upon motion of Mansfield Selectman Aptowitz, seconded by Dighton Selectwoman Nancy Goulart, it was voted to convene another meeting of the Bristol County Advisory Board on **Saturday, January 6, 2018 at 11:00 am at the Bristol County Agricultural School, 135 Center Street in Dighton.**

A motion was made by Dighton Selectwoman Goulart and seconded by Fall River Councilman Long to adjourn at 7:10 pm.