

JOINT COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL BUILDINGS

December 20, 2022 at 6:30 PM

Co-Chairman Trisciani called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Heath, Trisciani, Levasseur and School Committee Members
O'Connell, Potter, Hamer

Messrs.: J. Gagne, P. Chiesa

1. ESSER Ventilation Projects Update provided by Josh Gagne, Chief of Facilities.
(Note: For informational purposes only; no action is required.)
2. School Project Schedule Update provided by the Chief of Facilities.
(Note: For informational purposes only; no action is required.)

Josh Gagne, Chief of Facilities, stated not a whole lot has changed. Green Acres and Memorial are still ongoing. We hope to install two units at each school in mid-January and then those will come to an end. For winter after the holiday we would like to be at McLaughlin, Northwest and Wing B of Green Acres. We are at Northwest now building temporary petitions, one at the Library and one on the stage, to be able to move offices and kids around. That will allow us to do work through the winter. In the summer, we would like to be at Webster, Parker-Varney and Weston. Although we are working at little bit at Webster now, we need transformers and those have long lead time items. We are working with Eversource to source those and make sure we have them for the summer. That is the long-term schedule. I would like to add that at Green Acres the School Board did vote in sprinklers so we are installing those while the ceilings are down. That is funded out of deferred maintenance.

Alderman Heath asked how do you mitigate the children from looking at what you are doing. Do you do this on off school times or during the school day and how do teachers maintain order with a lot of work going on?

Mr. Gagne answered it depends on the ventilation unit that we are changing. They service between 4-8 classrooms depending on how big they are. We will try to take that section of the school and put petitions up so no one is allowed in that area.

Alderman Heath moved that in light of wanting to respect everybody's time the committee only meet when an item needs to be acted upon. If items are for informational only, we would ask that the Chief of Facilities, Mr. Gagne, provide that to the committee and no meeting would be necessary. **Alderman Levasseur** duly seconded the motion.

Co-Chair O'Connell stated I have a question. I like that idea but I am questioning the statutory requirement for the committee and how often it needs to meet. I think there is language in the Charter perhaps. I wasn't anticipating this motion so I haven't looked at it but I am wondering if our staff can tell us if there is a requirement to meet.

Peter Chiesa, Deputy Solicitor, responded I don't think there is a requirement that you have to meet once a month. I think if it comes up you have to approve renovations and whatnot but I would be happy to look it up and advise you at the next meeting as to whether there are any requirements.

Co-Chair O'Connell stated I am very supportive of the motion. I just want to make sure that we are meeting the statutory requirement.

Alderman Heath stated we know when there has to be an action that we definitely have to meet but to respect your time and everybody else's, for example this evening both items are information, and I would hate to bring everybody together, seeing that I made the motion in the first place to meet every month. I am sure I saw some grimaces on faces so I want to do something to rectify that so that we only meet when we absolutely need to and respect your time, Mr. Gagne, because you are also a very busy person.

Co-Chair Trisciani stated I believe you also do a report to Facilities & Finance on the school side of things as well.

Mr. Gagne responded yes and I can also file an update with the City Clerk's Office monthly if you want.

Co-Chair Trisciani replied yes if we can just get an update and if there are any red flags or any reason to meet we can call this group together. This committee is really more about the financial oversight and more of a fiduciary duty to make sure the funds are appropriated properly and that things are staying on schedule more than anything else.

Alderman Heath stated and because it is federal funds we need to make sure that we are approving what we need to as our policy determines.

Co-Chair Trisciani called for a vote. *There being none opposed, the motion carried.*

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman Heath**, duly seconded by **Co-Chair O'Connell**, it was voted to adjourn.*

A True Record. Attest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Normand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Clerk of Committee