

Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes March 18, 2019

Attendees: Dr. Walter Willett, Sam Adlerstein, Christina Plourd (teleconference), Jeff Schroeder

1. Birch Grove Primary School Foundation

The Birch Grove Primary School Foundation issue was discussed. The State of Connecticut has agreed to provide a 52% reimbursement if the school is renovated as new under emergency status. The State is expecting the school to be rebuilt on a 2-year timeline assuming that the referendum for funding the Birch Grove Primary School passes to allow the school to be rebuilt under emergency status. The State has waived the bidding process because of the emergency status, short timeframe and special project status, and thinks it wise to use their recommended contractors for the school build.

At the federal level, a law entitled Rebuilding America's School Act was moved out of committee with Title 5 covering crumbling foundations that could provide reimbursement for some or all of the remaining 48% of the school cost. The bill plans to cover spending to repair or rebuild schools that suffer from crumbling foundations because of pyrite and pyrrhotite and will reimburse expenses retroactively for the 5 years prior to the passage of the bill.

Walt and other school personnel are in daily meetings and discussions with the Connecticut State personnel involved in school building development, the architects, the builders and others concerning the Birch Grove Primary School foundation issues.

Because of the deterioration of the foundation, the students at Birch Grove will need to be taught outside of Birch Grove Primary School for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years at a minimum while the school is rebuilt. The engineer discussed options and provided the BOE with the following best locations: THS field behind school on left near road to Kate Lane, TMS field to the right and down the hill from the driveway closest to 74, and the BGP field to the left of the building above the parking lot. Parker School is not an option for housing the students.