



LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Henry J. Mroz Administration Office
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Special Education
Subcommittee Meeting

Monday, May 1, 2023
Zoom - Virtual Meeting
5:30 p.m.

Subcommittee Members Present: Chairperson Delrossi, Ms. Chhoun and Ms. Thompson

School Department Personnel Present: Ms. Desmond, Chief Academic Officer
Dr. Vicente, Director of Special Education
Mr. Underwood, Facilities Director
Ms. Peters, Coordinator, Laura Lee

This meeting is being held remotely in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. 30A, Section 20.

Chairperson Delrossi called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. The following agenda item was discussed:

1. Discussion on Laure Lee Building Condition

Chairperson Delrossi stated that this is a follow up meeting from the previous special education subcommittee meeting. Ms. Desmond stated that they're providing answers to specific questions that were asked at that meeting. Dr. Vicente provided a presentation to the Subcommittee that gave an overview of the BeSafe report. He provided this breakdown of priority projects and approximate costs at the Laure Lee school:

- Bathroom Renovations \$400,00.00
- Elevator \$250,000.00
- Roofing Repair \$200,000.00
- Foundation/Waterproofing \$100,000.00
- Fencing \$20,000.00

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| ➤ Paving & Parking | \$50,000.00 |
| ➤ Siding & Abatement Repairs | Cost Unknown |
| ➤ Heat Distribution Repairs | Cost Unknown |

Dr. Vicente stated that the approximate costs equal \$1.2 million dollars for the above projects. He stated that these costs represent current projects that need to be addressed to appropriately maintain the school property. He stated that by doing these projects it would bring the building up to code.

Mr. Underwood stated that the building was built in 1900 and the last renovation done there was in 1983 (40 years ago). He stated that although we have had the opportunity to renovate the building, it doesn't do anything to help with the green space issue the school deals with, transportation issues around student drop off and pick up, parking for the staff, and the bathrooms.

Ms. Delrossi stated that these issues need to be brought to a joint facilities subcommittee meeting with the city. She stated that she wants to know how this is affecting the students.

Ms. Peters stated that due to the lack of cafeteria space the students lose that skill. She stated they have no gym so in the winter, the students have to have gym in their classrooms. She stated that when the children are outside for gym or recess the pavement is choppy therefore not always safe. She stated that students don't understand why the city doesn't fix the building and believe that they're viewed as not good kids. Parents are very hesitant to send their children there because of these conditions.

Dr. Vicente stated that the students get placed there from their IEP and if the student doesn't go there the students goes to an outside placement.

Ms. Delrossi asked how much outside placement costs.

Dr. Vicente responded that it's approximately \$100,000.

Ms. Peters added that the location is also not ideal especially for drop off and pick up (buses).

Dr. Vicente stated that it's a great program and the staff does a great job.

Ms. Thompson asked if it was handicap accessible.

Dr. Vicente stated that it's handicap friendly. He stated that there is an immediate need to have these issues addressed.

Ms. Desmond stated that she along with Dr. Vicente and his team could look at possible other solutions. She stated there is concern around the location and student needs. She stated she believes it would be beneficial for the team to come together and look at options and bring those ideas/options back. She stated that green space is important for students and helps them programmatically as well.

Ms. Delrossi stated that it would need to go in front of the whole body.

Mr. Underwood stated that it's all connected and that the location is not good. He stated that he wished he could be told to look at alternative sites, because he believes that would be best for students and staff. He stated that options are needed, because the building is not worth fixing.

Ms. Chhoun stated that she likes the idea of going out and looking at other options.

Ms. Thompson asked Dr. Vicente to prepare a packet for the Committee on what the staff needs to engage with the students.

Ms. Thompson made a motion to have a joint facilities subcommittee meeting to discuss the condition of the building and to have the administration provide a report with options and considerations moving forward for said meeting; seconded by Chairperson Delrossi. 3 years APPROVED

Ms. Thompson made a motion to adjourn at 6:22 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Chhoun. 3 years APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robin Desmond", written in a cursive style.

Robin Desmond, Chief Academic Officer
for Dr. Joel Boyd, Superintendent and
Secretary, Lowell School Committee

RAD/mes