

Joint Facilities Committee

Thursday June 19, 2025

6:00pm DPW Conference Room/Virtual

1. Call to Order

5:58pm

2. Roll Call

Present: Jim Nasuta, Bethany Ouellette, Marie Pyznar (virtual), Doug Maxellon, Emily Clifford, Dean Gousse, Tina LeBlanc and Bob Cressotti.

Also present: Erik Wicander and Andy Longey.

Absent: Scott Ryder, Joe Muller, Gina Cekala, and Charlotte Riley.

3. Approval of Minutes - February 13, 2024

Motion by Bob Cressotti, seconded by Doug Maxellon to approve, Dean Gousse abstained, and the rest were in favor.

4. Special Guests

None.

5. Unfinished Business

A. Update on Roofs

Erik Wicander shared that we had to reach out to get the design for the Alcorn roof amended so we can put it out to bid as a regular project. It is no longer receiving reimbursement. He mentioned that there was discussion on holding off on the project, but he is getting all the documents ready in case that changes.

Eric also shared that the Parkman roof is proceeding, and they are getting ready for a plan review. We have commitment from the state for reimbursement. Eric is meeting with Silver Petrucelli on Monday for some odds and ends.

Prudence Crandall and Stowe need to have a design completed before we can apply to the state for reimbursement. Eric will get an update from Silver Petrucelli as to where we are with the design.

Eric stated that the library roof is basically done. WE did have to get the contractor back for some odds and ends, he believes there may have been some downspout issues, but he is not 100% sure so he will get an update for next time we meet.

Eric will also get an update on the police department roof. He mentioned that he was up on the flat part recently, the part that had the issues, and he said it looked the same. He said there is no active leak there. He will get an update on this for the next meeting as well.

6. New Business

A. Food Waste at the Schools

Eric Wicander shared that there is a new statutory requirement that will eventually require the schools to recycle food waste. He will be working with John Dague on this to come up with a solution. We will have to select a hauler. We will have to figure out how to move the waste so that employees are not injured by moving the waste. Liquids will have to be removed from the waste stream, otherwise they get heavy.

Marie Pyznar asked what we are doing currently and how it will be different with the new mandate.

Eric shared that instead of the students walking up to the trash barrel and dumping the whole tray in the trash they will be dumping liquid waste in one bucket, food in another, and the tray, napkins, etc. in another.

Jim Nasuta added that they will be putting the same regulations on restaurants.

Marie Pyznar wanted to know if this topic would fall under JFC or should it be talked about in DPW Committee.

Eric said that it is a crossover topic because it is going to require some facilities changes. Cooperation between DPW and educational staff will be needed to make this happen. We will need to have new drains and new cans purchased.

Andy Longey stated that we do not have to do this for the upcoming school year, but we do need to show progress towards it. We have 5000 students in our district that will need to be trained how to do this.

Eric mentioned that he did this in Southwick and one benefit was there was a reduction in tonnage for waste hauling.

Marie Pyznar mentioned the possibility of checking with local farmers to see if they would pick up the food waste.

Eric said he would check into that option to see if it is compliant because if it is, it may be a good resource for us.

Emily Clifford asked what budget this would fall under, DPW, BOE, or both.

It is a multi-faceted project and we need to see where it goes when we get to that point. There will be one-time start up costs involved and then continued hauling.

B. Custodial Coverage

Andy Longey shared that the BOE supports Eric Wicander coming on board and all the hard work he is doing. He has brought structure to the custodial staff. Mr. Longey and the BOE are, however, very concerned as to how the high school is going to get cleaned this summer. There are usually 12 custodians and this summer there will only be 4.

Marie Pyznar thinks that this topic is not in the purview of the Joint Facilities Committee. In her opinion, JFC should not be discussing employment.

Eric Wicander was under the impression that Andy Longey brought to our our attention as a facilities issue, because only one-third of the building will get cleaned this summer.

Andy Longey wanted to get this on record in a meeting, so it does not come back on the BOE or Eric Wicander.

Tina LeBlanc mentioned that it is a bit of a gray area because there is not a BOE representative when it comes to facilities and the DPW Committee.

Marie Pyznar thinks that it would need to be Donald Nunes coming before the Council to ask for the positions that were cut to be reestablished. She does not believe that this is part of our charge.

7. Committee Comments

None.

8. Next Meeting Date-

July 10, 2025

9. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn by Tina LeBlanc, seconded by Bethany Ouellette, at 6:22pm, and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tina Demers
Joint Facilities Secretary