

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING and
PUBLIC HEARING
MAY 3, 2021**

The Ordinance Committee of the Board of Aldermen held a virtual video/teleconference meeting and public hearing via Zoom on Monday, May 3, 2021. Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

F. Smith Chairman
A. Giannattasio
G. Harla
A. Sutton
R. Vitali

ALSO PRESENT

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake
J. Rosen, Mayor's Assistant
J. Berchem, City Attorney
P. Erodici, Finance Director

Chairman Smith stated the Committee was here tonight to consider one ordinance concerning school bonding. He stated the meeting was being held in accordance with the legal notice posted in the New Haven Register on April 28, 2021.

1. An Ordinance appropriating \$12,915,000 for improvements to Pumpkin Delight Elementary School and authorizing the issuance of \$12,915,000 bonds of the City to meet said appropriation and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose.

Chairman Smith stated the purpose of the meeting is to consider An Ordinance appropriating \$12,915,000 for improvements to Pumpkin Delight Elementary School and authorizing the issuance of \$12,915,000 bonds of the City to meet said appropriation and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose.

Ald. Vitali and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded motion to refer to the full Board an Ordinance appropriating \$12,915,000 for improvements to Pumpkin Delight Elementary School and authorizing the issuance of \$12,915,000 bonds of the City to meet said appropriation and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose.

Ald. Vitali asked James Richetelli, Chief Operations Officer, to review the amount of bonding, does it include air conditioning and the square footage. Mr. Richetelli provided background on the project. He stated the architects initially provided a higher estimate than what was in the capital improvement plan. Mr. Richetelli stated the Permanent Schools Committee sharpened its pencils and brought the project down to the amount provided in the capital improvement plan.

He discussed the age of the school and improvements and code updated planned. Ald. Vitali asked if the air conditioning of the entire building is included. Mr. Richetelli stated it had been requested by the committee, but it was not included. He stated it is an add alternate and if the project comes in low enough air conditioning may be added. Ald. Vitali asked what the amount would be to include air conditioning. Mayor Blake stated in order to increase air conditioning into the older portion of the school it would be approximately \$200,000. Ed Widofsky, Tecton, stated the base price includes air condition to the new addition. Ald. Vitali asked what the additional cost to completely ventilate and air conditioning the entire building. Mr. Widofsky stated it would be an additional \$700,000. Ald. Vitali discussed air conditioning in the buildings and why he believes it is essential and should be included in the project. He asked why the non-lapsing fund could not be used if not bonded. Mr. Richetelli stated the non-lapsing fund is marked for covid related expenses which outweigh what is in the budget. Mayor Blake stated if federal grant money may possibly be used and if so would potentially supplement the project. Ald. Vitali requested the bonding amount be adjusted to include air conditioning the entire school.

Ald. Giannattasio echoed Ald. Vitali's concerns. He stated he believes best practice would be to implement air conditioning throughout the entire building. Ald. Giannattasio asked what portion of the 1949 building would not have air conditioning. Mr. Richetelli stated the new additions will be fully air conditioned, including the new media center and science room. Patrick Bradbury discussed ventilation being added to portions of the building. Ald. Giannattasio asked why Permanent Schools did not include air conditioning the entire school in the project budget. Matthew Woods, Permanent Schools Chairman, stated the committee is given broad project instructions. He discussed original constructions and cuts that were made to bring costs down. Ald. Giannattasio asked if an amendment could be made at the ordinance level. Chairman Smith stated he would prefer to vote for a full discussion at the full Board. Mayor Blake stated the air conditioning is being looked at through add alternate. He stated that the if the Board wanted to make more than a 5% adjustment a new ordinance would be required, including going back to Board of Finance. Ald. Giannattasio stated his feelings that the air conditioning should have been added in advance in order to have equity throughout the building with air conditioning.

Ald. Harla asked if the building currently has separate heating and cooling infrastructure. Ed Widofsky stated hearing is a separate system and the base package does include a replacement for the entire building. Ald. Harla asked if air conditioning was done for the entire building would it be more efficient. Mr. Widofsky state it would be more efficient. Ald. Sutton aske if the \$700,000 were added to fully air conditioning would be it be cheaper than doing it at a later date through a future bond ordinance. Mayor Blake stated that none of the schools are fully air conditioned. He discussed air conditioning at various schools. He again discussed his hope to fund the add alternate for air conditioning with anticipated federal monies.

Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business, Ald. Sutton and Ald. Giannattasio made and seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Toni Jo Weeks", written over a horizontal line.

Toni Jo Weeks

Recording Secretary