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City of Syracuse

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Superintendent of Schools
Syracuse City School District

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City of Syracuse

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Vice President for Engagement &
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David Rufus
Director of Southeast Gateway
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Hon. Matthew Rayo
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Hon. Van B. Robinson
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Chief Financial Officer
Syracuse City School District

JSCB

Joint Schools Construction Board

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Minutes
Special Meeting
Thursday, June 16, 2011
8:30 a.m.

Board Members Present: Mayor Stephanie Miner, Pat Hogan, David Rufus, Van Robinson, Ned Deuel, Laurie Menkin, Dan Lowengard and Pat Body

Board Member Absent: Chuck Merrihew and Matt Rayo

Ned Deuel motioned to adopt the minutes of the June 9, 2011 meeting. Van Robinson seconded the motion and it was accepted 7-0.

Joe Barry delivered his report as JSCB secretary. The ITC contracts have been executed and brought back to the Department of Purchase. The Tranche III bonding is proceeding on schedule. The Tranche III issuance has been approved by the Board of Education, the Common Council and now the JSCB is presented with a resolution that would authorize the same. This is the last tranche for Phase I, and the \$2.1 Million cash allocated to Blodgett will be moved to H.W. Smith and Dr. Weeks to finish the project.

The Superintendent said that the money should be flexible as things come up in the construction process. Mayor Miner responded that there is flexibility within the plan approved by the comptroller. If the project stays within the budget and scope approved by the comptroller, there is flexibility to shift funds within the program. For example, adding a new gymnasium to Clary would require submitting a new plan to the comptroller for his approval.

The Superintendent said that this is the last tranche, so he does not want to be in a position where there isn't flexibility. He said that he does not want to go outside of the plan approved by the comptroller or go to a Tranche IV in Phase I.

Laurie Menkin commented that there is enough flexibility within the plan, but she takes issue with reallocating the \$2.1 Million of Blodgett money to H.W. Smith and Dr. Weeks. She said it was never discussed among the board and expressed that the JSCB should take more of a role in these decisions.

Mayor Miner recalled several discussions pertaining to reallocating the Blodgett funds, including a meeting in SyraStat several months ago that included City and District staff as well as the Superintendent. Additionally, the Mayor cited a May 3, 2011 letter from the Superintendent wherein he suggested reserving funds designated for Blodgett as a contingency cover.



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Ted Trespasz clarified that the Tranche III bonds can be used within the scope of the Dr. Weeks, H.W. Smith and Fowler projects. The \$2.1 Million allocated to Blodgett should be borrowed, otherwise it could be abandoned. If it's not borrowed now in this final tranche of Phase I, the money gets lost. Additionally, this money is needed to fill the budget gap.

Joe Barry reminded the board that the JSCB had to do this in 2009 from the original Central Tech Greystone project to the roof projects at Clary and Shea.

Superintendent Lowengard and Laurie Menkin were concerned that the language in the resolution would not provide enough flexibility. Mayor Miner suggested adding language to the current resolution so the board could motion to a vote and approve the bonding.

The board adjourned for 15 minutes to allow bond counsel to amend the resolution.

The board reconvened and Ted Trespasz read aloud the language added to the resolution:

“It being understood that in the event that the costs of the Series 2011 Project are less than anticipated, it is the JSCB’s intent that any extra funds may be reallocated to any Series 2008 Project, subject, to the extent necessary, to OSC and Series 2011 Bond holder approval.”

Van Robinson motioned to put the amended resolution on the table. Pat Hogan seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Van Robinson motioned to adopt Resolution No. 49-2011 to authorize the transactions and execution and delivery of certain documents contemplated in connection with the issuance by SIDA of its school facility revenue bonds (Syracuse City School District Project – Series 2011 Project). Pat Hogan seconded the motion and it was approved 7-0.

Pat Hogan motioned to adjourn the meeting. David Rufus seconded the motion and all were in favor.