



CITY OF DOVER

AD-HOC CABLE ACCESS COMMITTEE - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: City Manager's Office, City Hall
Meeting Date: **Tuesday, August 11, 2009**
Meeting Time: **6:00 PM**

Meeting called to order at 6pm. Motion to go into public session made by Chairman Christianbury

In attendance, Audra Lurvey, Sarah Fisher- Fuller, Aviva Meyer, Parks Christenbury, Michael Joyal, Doug Dede, Superintendent John O'Connor, Steve Thompson.

The chair reviewed the decision of the School Board to refuse the opportunity to take over the operation of the cable studio. Dr. O'Connor took the floor; he explained the mix of the School Board's position ranging from misunderstandings, budget issues, CTC opportunities, and fear of the unknown.

JOC reviewed that he asked the SB to take on the buildup of the studio in the McConnell Center, for the construction and use of the building aid in order to save the city some money.

The original estimate for the construction was \$265,000, \$50,000 for equipment, and another \$50,000 for furniture. There is \$180,000 on hand, we would advance \$145,000 from the DoverNet fund balance in which the cable operation is currently accounted and would have that amount paid back annually as the State Aid is paid over five years equal to 40% of the project cost.

Once the project is completed, the school would technically "occupy" the space, however the franchise fee would pay the rent. The school board does not want to incur any additional fees associated with this space. PC stated that there would be a contract that would address all school board concerns.

JOC stated that he had contacted the State of NH to discuss the reduction of the scope of the project. They stated that there should not be a negative impact on the building aid approval. Some board members have expressed a concern that the project does not meet the true intent of the building aid.

DD raised the question about whether the studio will be a real-life teaching tool, as the original intent. The goal for members is that the program will come to the CTC eventually. DD also asked if the other districts have this type of program and if any other superintendents have approached him about this program, or shared their experiences with this type of program. JOC replied that he had, three other districts have similar programs with mixed results. DD wondered if this could become a charter school within the SAU.

AM asked about educational programming, which is the plan for the use of the space.

The subject of the equipment came up and PC and Steve discussed the availability of equipment and they are confident that they can find appropriate equipment for much less money than were discussed at the SB meeting.

DD brought up the fact that the CC had passed a policy regarding content and that we would have to revisit that policy.

The content for the schools currently is approved by the SAU office and the City Manager has authority to approve the content submitted by city departments.

JMJ is recommending the creation of a standing committee to advise regarding the operation and construction of the studio. JOC excused himself.

JMJ discussed the hiring of the media access coordinator (full time position to be paid by the



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franchise fee) to coordinate and manage the process of the build-up of the cable studio and overseeing the daily operation. The coordinator will work closely with the advisory committee. The second recommendation is to meet with the school administration and state to ensure the building aid is appropriate for the intended use of SAU meeting space and related cable access facilities. The purpose being to ensure that the state fully understands and recognizes the arrangements to be made between the city and SAU in its approval of building aid.

The third recommendation consists of two alternatives. Plan A occurs in conjunction with School Board authorization for securing building aid and State fully understanding the arrangement - form a JBC to construct the McConnell meeting/broadcast space. Membership of JBC made up of the same members appointed to the standing advisory committee in order to maintain continuity (formation of JBC will need to be an equal number of reps designated for both the School and the City Council).

Plan B occurs in the absence of School Board and state support for leveraging access to state building aid for additional SAU televised meeting space at the McConnell Center - abandon the McConnell Center build out and focus on City Hall studio space utilizing the existing franchise fee funds available.

There will be a SB meeting on the 24th of August, AL will inform school board members to try to answer questions prior to that workshop. We will have a draft agreement in hand to show and use for backup.

AM asked about the contract with the SAU, if it would have to go before the CC, the answer is yes. DD will approach the CC about reactivating our committee.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10PM August 11, 2009.

AL moved / DD seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Audra L. Lurvey

School Board Representative