



## ***Education Committee - Board of Representatives***

Megan Cottrell, Chair

Ramya Shaw, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Tuesday, September 26, 2023

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** *This meeting was held remotely*

The Education Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Cottrell and Committee Member Reps. Jean-Louis, Mays, Pierre-Louis, Shaw, Shinn, and Weinberg. Also in attendance were Megan Gearhart, Assistant Superintendent of Recreation; Richard Cerone, Athletic Director, Westhill High School; Charles Warrington, Colliers International; Craig De Jong and Kemp Morhardt, S/L/A/M; Richard Robinson, Pullman & Comley, LLC; Chris Dellaselva, Law Dept.; Katherine LoBalbo, Director of School Construction; and Lou Casolo, City Engineer.

Chair Cottrell called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Invitee(s) or Designees</b>
1. E31.019	REVIEW; Cost/Benefit Analysis of Having a Pool at Westhill High School. 05/02/23 – Submitted by Rep. Cottrell 05/25/23 –Held by Committee 07/10/23 – Moved to Pending	<b>Held by Committee 6-0-0</b>

Committee members discussed Item No. 1 with the invited guests. Items discussed included the following:

- Westhill High School provides value to the community through the use of their pool.
- Stamford Recreation uses the pool throughout the year, 3 nights a week from 5-9 pm for swimming lessons for ages 4 through adults. 2 swim instructors and 10 children for 5 to 6 classes per night for 3 days a week.
- 150 children use the pool throughout the school year.
- The pool is also used throughout the summer, providing swimming lessons for 1800 camp children 5 days a week.
- A 10-week swimming class costs about \$140 and is more affordable compared to other locations, which gives more people in the community an opportunity to take swimming lessons.
- The pool is used 3-4 times a year to train, certify and recertify around 40 lifeguards.
- Stamford Recreation reaches out to local swim clubs, high schools, colleges, and social media to recruit qualified lifeguards.
- Westhill has several teachers who are certified swim instructors and/or lifeguards.
- Daily swim classes and lifesaving classes are planned to be reintroduced.

- Westhill has a cooperative swim team of 25 students from the girls program and 18-20 from the boys program from Stamford High and AITE that practices and/or meets 6 days a week.
- Westhill hosts the FCIAC diving championship each year.

A motion to hold Item No. 1 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Cottrell, Mays, Pierre-Louis, Shinn, and Weinberg)

2. [E31.023](#) APPROVAL; Agreement between City of Stamford and the S/L/A/M Collaborative, Inc. for the Westhill High School Construction Project (Under RFP No. 2023.0030). Approved 6-0-0  
 08/31/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons  
 09/14/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Committee members discussed Item No. 2 with the invited guests. Items discussed included the following:

- The City of Stamford will work with S/L/A/M to design this 450,000 square foot new high school building.
- An RFP was issued in March, 2023 for architectural and engineering services. There were 9 responses which was reduced to 4. The fee proposals ranged from \$12 to \$16 million.
- S/L/A/M's \$13.5 million contract was approved in August 2023, of that, \$429,000 is allowances for work and pricing requested after proposals came in. Most of that is due to requested increases in insurance limits
- The design and bidding phase is anticipated to take approximately 24 months.
- There are 3 major steps which will do estimating efforts for in order to stay within budget. The first is the schematic design phase which is at approximately 25 to 30% completion; the second is the design development phase which is at approximately 60 to 65% completion, and again at 90-95% completion.
- SLAM and the construction manager will both prepare cost estimates, which will be compared
- The lowest bidder was not selected because they did not have any experience in CT and they were going to have second firm doing construction administration on their behalf rather than doing it themselves
- There will be a 10-month follow-up to check the electrical, plumbing, and HVAC systems and City staff will be trained on how to use and maintain the systems
- Fall 2028 is the occupancy date for the new school.
- The building will be designed to meet LEED silver level certification.
- The expected energy cost savings will be part of the design study that's going to be provided by SLAM's mechanical engineer.
- S/L/A/M has done similar sized projects
- S/L/A/M's designs for public schools are practical from a long term maintenance perspective while utilizing as much natural light as possible.

A motion to approve Item No. 2 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Cottrell, Mays, Pierre-Louis, Shaw, Shinn, and Weinberg in favor)

3. [E31.024](#) APPROVAL; Amendment No. 1 to Agreement between City of Stamford and BBS Architects & Engineers, PC for Design Services for Window & Floor Replacement at Springdale Elementary School (Under RFP No. 807). Approved 6-0-0  
08/31/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons  
09/14/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0

Committee members discussed Item No. 3 with the invited guests. Items discussed included the following:

- This is a project that commenced prior to when Stamford received its increased reimbursement amount.
- There is a significant amount of abatement in the flooring tiles and PCB abatement around the windows in the caulking
- Upon discovering this additional scope, the cost of construction has risen significantly; the estimated construction cost is about \$2.1 million, of which the City is applying for 60% reimbursement in 2 applications and is looking at a return of over \$1 million in state reimbursement
- This is a percentage of construction cost contract and the 8% and 7.4% total for the additional scope exceeds \$100,000 for design services
- The fee ranges for this contract are in line with municipal contracts of this type.
- The contract will have to go through a Pre-conformance Bid Review with the State of Connecticut before going out for a competitive bid.

A motion to approve Item No. 3 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Cottrell, Mays, Pierre-Louis, Shaw, Shinn, and Weinberg in favor)

Chair Cottrell adjourned the meeting at 7:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Megan Cottrell, Chair

This meeting is on video.