

Scott Chapman

From: cnewell2001 <cnewell2001@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 9, 2024 1:38 AM
To: boe@colchesterct.org; Bernard Dennler; Scott Chapman
Subject: Improvements to Bacon Academy fields

I am writing to support improving the sports fields at Bacon Academy. My son is a rising Junior and has played both Football and Baseball for Bacon Academy. Sports have done so much for him helping him grow into a responsible, respectful young man. Our athletes deserve a safe place to play. They give there all and deserve better. I am a fiscal conservative but would gladly vote yes for the field improvements. I believe Turf is the way to go for the most favorable results for this endeavor. Thank you. Christine Cerniglia

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

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Scott Chapman

From: Michael Dubreuil <dubreuilm@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 9, 2024 11:38 AM
To: BOE@colchesterct.org
Cc: First Selectman; Scott Chapman; Mike Hayes; Mike Egan; Karen Belding; Tim Vaillancourt; John Thomas
Subject: Superintendent Plans

Hello BOE Members,

I have been reviewing the BOE Capital Plan and BOE policies. In Policy 3560, Capital Outlay, it says:

Except for emergencies or reasons of economy, the purchase of major pieces of equipment such as vehicles shall be scheduled so that annual budgetary appropriations for capital outlay will be of similar size or will show a continuous trend without severe fluctuations.

A long-range and short-range plan for capital outlay shall be developed by the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education budget committee in order to prevent severe fluctuations in the annual capital outlay fund, and to provide an orderly process for acquisition of needed equipment and facilities within budgetary constraints. This long and short-range plan shall be submitted with the annual budget.

It's fairly clear from this policy that the Board of Education considers major expenses to be similar to the cost of a vehicle. There is no policy that addresses "super expenses" like the Bacon Academy roof, Bacon Academy parking lot, or certainly not the Bacon Academy Athletic Complex. I believe items of those size are the purview of the Board of Selectmen and typically funded via bonding.

Outside of the concerns I have about the BOE Capital Plan including "super expenses" that don't seem appropriate for the jurisdiction given to the BOE, I have the following questions:

A.) Policy 3560 indicates the Superintendent will provide a short term and long term plan. Where can we find these plans?

B.) I haven't heard of any discussion regarding the use of the Board of Education Capital Reserve Fund. What is the current balance of this fund and how does the BOE plan to use it to fund items in the Superintendent's short term and long term plan?

Sincerely,
Michael Dubreuil

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Scott Chapman

From: Bernard Dennler
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2024 5:09 PM
To: Scott Chapman
Cc: Michelle Marceau
Subject: Fwd: Facilities Budget Youth Center Overspend

Scott,
Please see the correspondence below from Joe Leone regarding the work that was performed at the Youth Center in the fall. We request that these funds be reclassified with an authorization to spend from capital reserve - buildings and grounds maintenance.

In October, Mary emailed Andrea and Andreas indicating that this would need to be brought forward for a transfer at the next BOF meeting. The email does not specify a source but it's my understanding from speaking with Joe that Capital Reserve was the likely intended funding source. We concur that this is an appropriate source of funding.

Bernie

Bernie Dennler
First Selectman

Town of Colchester
127 Norwich Ave
Colchester, CT 06415
Phone: 860-537-7222

“Colchester, Connecticut: Where tradition meets tomorrow.”

From: Joseph Leone <Jleone@ColchesterCT.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2024 4:30:49 PM
To: Bernard Dennler <BDennler@colchesterct.gov>
Cc: Heide Perham <HeidePerham@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Facilities Budget Youth Center Overspend

Bernie,

The overspend of \$54,604 from org/obj 13205 46226: “Building Repairs” is a result of the emergency spending needed to open the youth center this fall. That building was in rough shape and was in no condition to hold children.

- The crawlspace/basement had over a foot of water in it for an extended period of time, the joists were soaked, and it was raining from the insulation.
- Though our waterheater was less than 5 years old it failed inspection by travelers and needed to be replaced because it had rotted through from habitual standing water.

- Rain was entering the building from the front porch, the window sills, the ADA ramp door, and the flashing were the roof on the old safe met the building. There was actually a tree growing there in the hole where the water was entering the building.
- 3 walls and a ceiling were collapsing into the building. Behind one of these walls (a wobbling veneer masonry wall that was holding up the second floor) was a significant amount of black mold
- The lead block painting on the windows was not maintained annually, or redone 15 years ago as recommended in the specification for the abatement project that took place there in the 90's. It was confirmed by wipe testing, that there was toxic lead dust above the permitted limits on the windows and floors. We postponed the opening of the youth center due to these lead levels.
- The masonry chimney on the rear of the building next to the ice cream store was missing bricks at its base, the mortar was falling out of the joints.

The work that was performed was intended to address these very alarming issues. If anyone would like pictures of any of this I would be happy to share them. I just wanted to make sure I got this out to you today per your request.

Thanks,

Joe

Joseph Leone, EIT, M.Ed

Director of Public Works

127 Norwich Ave, Colchester CT, 06415

Direct: (860) 537-7286

