Feedback was received last week on the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) grant application being submitted by Phillips County Commissioners for an all-weather track on the Holyoke school grounds.

Re-1J Supt. Bret Miles told the school board at its Monday, Feb. 27 meeting that final pieces will be completed this week, with the application to be delivered Friday.

The board voted to allocate a maximum of $12,000 in the 2012-13 capital projects budget as the district's contribution toward the track project.

Miles said it will make the GOCO grant application stronger to have money invested in it from the district.

Part of those funds ($5,500) will be used for preparation work, including design of the track. That will be completed soon so if the grant is awarded in June, there should be time to have the project completed for the fall football season. If the grant is not awarded, the design is still in place for future grant applications.

If the district did not go ahead with preparation work prior to the June 19 grant notification date, the project could not have been completed for the fall of 2012.

Board member Jon King said he was having a hard time with the $12,000 expense until Dennis Herman pointed out the savings in inflation on materials by purchasing earlier.

Financing agreement

approved for BEST grant and summer construction

Board members approved a financing agreement for BEST grant and summer construction with First Pioneer National Bank of Holyoke.

At an earlier board meeting in February, Supt. Miles explained mill levy override dollars were approved for BEST grant construction and other capital improvement, but the money is available over the next nine years. Contractors need paid this year.

Board members and Miles expressed appreciation to Tom Bennett of First Pioneer for the financing agreement he was willing to provide. Bennett hailed the board for “thinking locally.”

Miles updated the board on the construction project. A contract with roofers is in final stages with an upgrade to 90 mil roofing material from 60 mil. A permit for the roof project has been paid and submitted to the state.

Three engineering firms were interviewed and BCER was selected as the mechanical engineer for design of the boiler/electrical/fire safety projects.

Other priority projects have been identified, not including BEST grants. If these can be completed within the budget, the next level of priorities may be added. They include internet, security, doors at the elementary, restrooms/locker rooms and lighting upgrades.

A proposal for internet and security has been received from a local business.

Next steps include: begin the mechanical design, communicate with local business on the possibility of a proposal for the internet project, walkthrough for count on replacement of doors and restroom fixtures, add more detail to project budget, begin process of selection of general contractor for projects supervision and continue weekly project meetings.

Miles said he and maintenance and facilities director Robert Jacobs have also been spending time on the issues related to the 1999 junior high building roof. They expect an answer on the roof warranty within a couple of weeks.

PIE planning carnival

Tiffany Watson and Jessica Johnson of Partners in Education (PIE) talked to the board about the March 16 PIE carnival which raised funds for the district.

They noted the last couple of years, the funds have gone for technology and have amounted to about $3,000 each year. This year, they're using the slogan "Carnival for Classrooms" and will utilize a mini grant process after the carnival to determine how to dispense the funds.

Students have contributed to 20 baskets that will be auctioned, and lots of new games are planned this year at the carnival.

Watson, Johnson and board member Linda Jelden noted appreciation for support of the carnival, adding they always need volunteers.

Other business

In other business Monday night, the Re-1J board:

—changed board meeting times with the second reading of Policy BE on school board

meetings. The twice-a-month meetings will now begin at 7 p.m. during the school year and at 8 p.m. during the summer months.

—approved Pat Wiebers as a long-term substitute teacher for the maternity leave of Andrea Kammer.

—accepted the application for Race to the Top to allow the allocations for the district to be pooled with other BOCES schools.

-—gave approval for second reading of Section J policies on students, noting there are about 40 more policies in the section still needing to be reviewed.

—held a one-hour executive session with principals Susan Ortner and Kyle Stumpf for their evaluations.

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