

**JOINT CAPITAL BUDGET COMMITTEES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENERGY
CONSUMER PROTECTION & GOVERNMENT SERVICES
EDUCATION & YOUTH
VETERANS & SENIORS
HUMAN RESOURCES
of the
Suffolk County Legislature**

Minutes

A 2003-2005 Capital Budget and Program Committee meeting was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Auditorium at the William Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, New York on **May 29, 2002** at 12:00 P.M.

LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Legislator Jon Cooper
Legislator Vivian Fisher
Legislator Cameron Alden
Legislator Lynne Nowick
Legislator Bill Lindsay
Legislator Angie Carpenter
Legislator Brian Foley
Legislator Joseph Caracappa

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Jon DeMaio, Suffolk Community College
Paul Cooper, Suffolk Community College
Lauri Savona, Suffolk Community College
Charles K. Stein, Suffolk Community College
Alice A. Amhrein, Department of Economic Development
Tom Cunningham, Budget Review Office
Theresa Lollo, County Executive's Budget Office
Nicole DeAngelo, County Executive's Office, I.R.
Carolyn Fahey, Department of Economic Development
Pauline Mize, Francis Gabreski Airport
Gail Vizzini, Budget Review Office
Kathy LaGuardia, County Executive's Office
All Interested Parties

Minutes taken and transcribed by Irene Kulesa, Legislative Secretary

(The meeting came to order at 12:25 P.M.)

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

We'll call this Joint Meeting -- we'll start with the Pledge and we'll have Legislator Vivian Fisher lead that.

SALUTATION

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

The first segment we'll do is Consumer Affairs, Consumer Protection and seeing no one rush to the front to speak on that, I think we're all done with that section then. And we'll turn it over the Chairman Cooper.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Moving right along to Economic Development and Energy. If there are any County Department members that would like to address the committee? Alice, did you want make any sort of presentation?

MS. AMHREIN:

I'm really here to answer any questions.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Any questions from committee members?

LEGISLATOR FISHER:

You know I see somebody -- Tom, I'm forgetting your last name? No, not you Chuck. From DPW. I'm forgetting your name. Isn't he from DPW? No, okay. Never mind. You look like somebody else. I just had a question about energy? So Alice can maybe -- can answer it.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Did you want Alice?

LEGISLATOR FISHER:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Alice, could you come up please?

LEGISLATOR FISHER:

Which hat, right. See which hat you're going to wear.

MS. AMHREIN:

We've really compartmentalized.

LEGISLATOR FISHER:

Yes.

MS. AMHREIN:

Yes?

LEGISLATOR FISHER:

Hi Alice. Thanks for coming. Let me make sure this is on. This reason I asked you to come up is that we've been discussing in the Energy Committee, Capital Projects and how they reflect efficiency, energy efficiency. And how we're trying to look at Capital Projects visavis energy efficiency. I wasn't able to attend the last meeting of the Energy Advisory Committee but was that a discussion in the Energy Advisory Committee regarding the Capital Projects that we have before us for next year?

MS. AMHREIN:

It wasn't a discussion at the last committee meeting. But two or three meetings ago, we discussed that this one Capital Project and I don't have the number where -- but it's in the Capital Budget with funds to do more with energy efficiency with other County Departments. But I don't know if DPW put more money in it for next year or not.

LEGISLATOR FISHER:

Okay.

MS. AMHREIN:

Maybe Legislative Budget Review would know.

LEGISLATOR FISHER:

Okay. While they're looking for that Alice? There was another question. There was a Capital Project that's not in the new Budget. It was from last year's Budget for the Police Headquarters and for emergency generators and we discussed the feasibility of fuel cells. Now I do recall that there was some discussion of fuel cells in the Energy Advisory Committee. Is there any further discussion? Do you know how far along we are with the discussion of fuel cells?

MS. AMHREIN:

I think, Legislator Fisher that the appropriate person to answer this would be Tom LaGuardia. But I know from the committee meetings that he indicated that they are doing something. I think it's at the Medical Examiner's Office. They're doing a demonstration project and he might have said something about the Police Department. But that they've been working with LIPA. I'm trying to install some alternative energy demonstration projects around the County. But I will look at that. I just got the Legislative Budget Report on Friday. But I'll look at it and I'll give you a summary of what I find in there on the energy issues.

LEGISLATOR FISHER:

Thank you very much Alice. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

MS. AMHREIN:

I think Budget Review has it.

MS. VIZZINI:

Yes, on page 53 of the report, there is a discussion of the energy conservation, various County Buildings Project, which I think you're referring to. And there is funding in there. There's twenty five thousand dollars in 2004 and two hundred and fifty thousand for 2005. In addition, we make some remarks regarding several other ongoing major Capital Building, project improvements including the Riverhead Courts, the former Infirmary and the Griffing Avenue Court Complex, where Public Works is incorporating energy efficient concepts in those projects.

LEGISLATOR FISHER:

Thank you very much Alice.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Thank you. No other questions? I guess we can move to the next committee, which would be --

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Education.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Education, all right.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Education. Actually it's not. If I could just have everybody's attention? The reason we have so many people here from the Community College, I think, based on -- I had asked the college to be here because I had seen that the County Executive had not included the library for the eastern campus as part of his Capital Budget. This is very important because the eastern campus and I invite all of you, if you go out east to visit the eastern campus and look at what their library facilities are. It's an embarrassment for us as a County to present this as a collegiate library.

I don't know of any elementary school in any of the districts that I represent that have a library that is insufficient as the library that we have at the eastern campus of our college. And it's certainly a mystery to me why this would not appear in our Capital Budget. And just on the off chance that I might not have reading the Budget correctly, I asked Chuck to come here today to, you know, let me know what's going on. Let us know why this is not appearing in the Capital Budget. What's going on in the County Executive's Office?

MR. STEIN:

First, I would just like to introduce people that are here from the Community College. We have Lauri Savona, who is the Assistant to President LaLima, who apologizes for not being here. There's an award ceremony out at the eastern campus.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

I know they have been in touch with me about that. Thank you Chuck.

MR. STEIN:

We also have Paul Cooper and Jon DeMaio from our Facilities Group and I think you've gotten to know them over the last year or so since they've come to the college.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Except I was just confusing Jon DeMaio with Tom LaGuardia from DPW.

MR. STEIN:

I want to thank you for your remarks. I want to thank the County, first of all, for the support, past support shown to the college with respect to it's Capital Program. And certainly to the Budget Office of the County Executive and the Budget Review Office for the considerations that they've gone through with respect to our Capital Program.

With respect to the library out east, if this -- this is not a new situation. It's been an ongoing request of the college to deal with the Resource Center needs of the eastern campus, which by the way, is growing rather significantly. But even without the growth, as you pointed out, the existing library facility is woefully inadequate. In 1997, Middle States Accreditation commented on it and commented on the fact that our project has not been included.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

We could actually risk accreditation this year, if we don't improve that library. Isn't that true?

MR. STEIN:

Well, I know that they raised the issue in 1997 and the recommendation was that it be dealt with. So here we are, in this circumstance that we're at right now. Certainly, we're going through an update right now, this year, with Middle States. And it would certainly be helpful if the Capital Program demonstrated that the Library Resource Center at the east was included, as was put in last year by the Legislature and we're hopeful that we can get that back in. So at least, we can show Middle States that it's in the program. The other reason for this is New York State is now going through -- SUNY is going through it, compiling information for its next year five year Capital Program for the Community Colleges and that will go from 2003 to 2008. And there are a couple of projects I wanted to comment on. At the moment, we are on the Library Resource Center. If we don't get these programs into this Capital Program, even if they're in subsequent years, we run the risk of not being able to obtain State approval until 2009, which would be their next five-year program. So these --

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Go back to the library for a minute Chuck?

MR. STEIN:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Because I had a question. Last year it was in the budget. What kind of progress was made last year? What happens that first year when it's in the Capital Budget?

MR. STEIN:

Well, it was put in for a subsequent year period. And that demonstrates to the State that the local sponsor, in this case Suffolk County, is supporting that project, so that they can then include it in their plans. The same way Suffolk County has a Capital Program, which is a multi-year program; the State does the same thing.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Okay but let me -- maybe I didn't make my question clear enough. You know I'm not great with budgets. We've been discussing recently the matter that we put expenditures in our Capital Budget and then that money isn't spent. And we're trying -- am I getting this right or wrong Tom Cunningham? Do you know what I'm talking about? Right Tom? Tom, you know what I'm referring to? Where we just looked at, I think, Mr. Crecca had also had legislation regarding monies being spent within five years, otherwise it would be redistributed in the Budget. And what I'm asking is if the money was in the Capital Project last year, we can't just put money in the Capital Project. Was it for an out year? Or I thought it was for --

MR. CUNNINGHAM:

Yes. What has happened is that the project was put in the Capital Program. But the funding for the project was put in subsequent years.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

It was for an out year.

MR. CUNNINGHAM:

Which meant that it was in 2005 or beyond.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Okay. That was my question. Whether it was money that was put in for last year or was it for an out year? But the Capital Project -- but that became part of the Capital Budget that year?

MR. CUNNINGHAM:

I would hasten to add that we agreed that the project should be included. And we would also indicate, in view of the situation at the eastern campus that probably we would be amply justified in moving that. Advancing that funding forward to allow the college to proceed with this project because there is a two or three-year process involved in the planning and reconstruction of the building.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Right, I would assume that it would take some time for planning and construction. Is the college ready to do that Chuck? To begin looking at that project seriously to start the planning?

MR. STEIN:

Well, the process basically would be to have the local support and then have State support and they're formulating that next five-year program right now. So with that being the case, in the first year of that next five-year program is 2003. So it would be very helpful to move along those lines. Once we have the program accepted by SUNY and in the State's five-year program, then we can come back to the County Legislature. We can't start without the Legislatures approval and the County Executive, of course.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Why didn't he include it in the Budget? Is there anybody here from the County Exec's Office? Why was it taken out of the Budget? Well, there is somebody from the County Exec. Can anyone come forward from the County Executive's Office please? Yes?

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

If you'd suffer an interruption?

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Sure.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

I think it was always put in with funding in subsequent years. Isn't that the way it was in last year?

MR. STEIN:

That was the first year it was put in, last year.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

You have to come up and speak into the mike. I'm sorry. Say who you are.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

That project doesn't just get extinguished though, I think.

MR. STEIN:

It was removed.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

It was removed.

MS. LAGUARDIA:

I'm Kathy LaGuardia from the County Exec's Office. I think the concern was there is some increased enrollment but the County Exec's Office wasn't ready to go forward. They delayed the project until they looked at the whole eastern campus and to find what was required.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Now, was it made clear that this particular facility, the library or resource center is inadequate for the number of students that are there now?

MS. LAGUARDIA:

(Inaudible)

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Okay. Then why would there have to be a view on what the future enrollment would be?

MS. LAGUARDIA:

What we were going to do with the campus.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

And it was also emphasized that there might be a problem with Middle States Accreditation?

MS. LAGUARDIA:

I wasn't aware of that.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Okay, because that was on the record last year when it was put in the Budget that there might be a problem with Middle State's Accreditation because that's such an inadequate resource center. The library and the resource center are the core of a college. If a student has no place to have intellectual resources, such as books and computers and other support materials, the college isn't really an institution of learning. And to have an inadequate resource center renders that campus inadequate as a college campus. Have you seen the library?

MS. LAGUARDIA:

No, I have not seen the library.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Okay, it's important for people in the County Executive's Office to -- whoever is making the decision to take a look at those facilities. It's a disgrace. Okay. Who was that?

MS. LAGUARDIA:

(Inaudible)

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Okay, thank you Ms. LaGuardia. Are there any other questions? I'm sorry. I feel a little passionately about this and I'm forgetting that there are other people sitting at the horseshoe. Legislator Alden?

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

I think the Budget Steering Committee is meeting right now. And that's one thing that we could pass them a note to either include that in the Omnibus part of it with subsequent year funding. So basically, we don't need funding. You're saying we wouldn't have to fund it in 2003, because the State wouldn't even be able to do it that quickly, right?

MR. STEIN:

Well, the State, as I mentioned, is putting together its five-year program, which begins in 2003.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Okay.

MR. STEIN:

So --

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

If the projects in, what would you suggest then to meet the State standard? Or to try to coordinate with the State? What would be the --

MR. STEIN:

I think Budget Review just made a recommendation about moving it up probably to 2004, I think, was the year.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Well, it wouldn't be just moving it up because it's removed completely, right so --

MR. STEIN:

Well, reinstating it, putting it in 2004.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

So okay.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Okay, so we'll -- Legislator Foley said that you were at the Omnibus.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Legislator's Caracappa, Carpenter and I are attending the Omnibus Capital Budget Meeting. That's why we're arriving late here.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

We just looked at --

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

I'll stop in at the committee meeting and brief them on what we've been discussing here. Thank you very much. Are there any other questions or any other comments?

MR. STEIN:

No, certainly thank you for your support there. I think it's very helpful. As I mentioned earlier, I think Budget Review did a fine job analyzing our Capital requests. There were just a number, a couple of items that I wanted to comment on. Again, going back to the concept of the State's five-year program and trying to demonstrate a level of support from the County, so that we can get things into the program. Otherwise, we're going to have to wait until the following five-year program. And the items that we think might -- we would like those -- hopefully some reconsideration on, deal with the Nicolls Road entrance. That's something that we really have a significant problem at the Selden Campus and it was demonstrated as a major problem following the events of September 11th.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

That evacuation that occurred there?

MR. STEIN:

Unfortunately, we had evacuations and that was a major, major concern.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

I was part of the traffic there. I recall it well.

MR. STEIN:

And we would hope that that item find its way into the program, even subsequent years. So that the demonstration to the State is that there's support for it and we can then get it into the State's five-year program.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

How would that have helped with that kind of evacuation Chuck? Because when you're looking for evacuation of an entire campus, I really can't see how it would not lead to congestion no matter what kind of Capital Program you had there. What kind of Capital Project you had there?

MR. STEIN:

Well unfortunately and John and Paul could certainly deal with the technical aspects of it better than I, but the configuration that we have right now? You only have two or three vehicles.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

At that southern --

MR. STEIN:

At the Nicolls Road circle that could get out and there's this major backup that feeds all the way around the loop,

road throughout the campus. There are other exits and entrances. There's one on College Road.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Yes.

MR. STEIN:

And there's one on --

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Horseblock, is it?

MR. STEIN:

Coleman.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Oh, on Coleman Road, yes.

MR. STEIN:

But the major Nicolls Road entrance has a traffic circle right there. And the configuration of the road is such that there's no way to go north on Nicolls Road because there's one lane leading out around the circle out that exit. So the reconfiguration would involve a separate turnaround on to Nicolls Road to go north before the circle. And that would provide for significant easing of the congestion, with respect to getting out of the campus there. But as you, yourself experienced that evacuation after September 11th was horrendous.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

So it tied up traffic on Nicolls Road all the way up?

MR. STEIN:

It was phenomenal.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Nesconset Highway and beyond.

MR. STEIN:

So we would ask that some consideration of that be given to, including in subsequent years, so that we can, at least, get it in the State Program. The same would hold true, I know the --

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Before you leave that project, there was a question on it.

MR. STEIN:

I'm sorry.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Okay, Legislator Foley.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Thank you Madam Chair. Reviewing the whole Capital Program is the college working with Dunn Engineering, who is doing the consulting work for the reconstruction of Nicolls Road? All right. And have you talked about these entrances and exits as well, as that part of what they're looking at?

MR. COOPER:

We've had conversations with them and we would like to coordinate our project with the widening of Nicolls Road.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

All right, so you have -- so those are ongoing, okay. All right. As far as those cars traveling north, I thought that most of the cars that are traveling north from the college would use the Coleman Street exit, if you will. Not so much the main entrance.

MR. STEIN:

Believe it or not, a lot of them do use the main entrance.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

They do, okay. So you're looking for an interior spur that would go right up to the --

MR. STEIN:

Yes, between the road that leads from the circle back up toward the --

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

The theater there?

MR. STEIN:

Yes to go back toward the theater, there would be a spur that would feed off in the design phase. It would have to be put together. But it would feed off onto Nicolls and alleviate all that traffic that's backed up. Because they can't get out through the Nicolls Road exit.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Okay, are there any -- oh, you had more projects?

MR. STEIN:

The only other items that I wanted to mention and this again goes with the State's five-year plan. It would deal with -- and I'll just run down the projects. Project 2134 site paving, the new requests for the HBACR Building and the Bio-Tech Building and I understand -- I think BRO did a wonderful job in explaining the importance of the HBACR Building, in terms of the economic development aspects and the support. And I recognize that our foundation is attempting to get some private funding to help out here but we would still need a demonstration of local support, in order to get the State funding. So if could somehow include that in subsequent years, it would be helpful, again, to find it's way into the State Program.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Tom, why didn't BRO see 2134 as a project that we should support? Site paving? You didn't recommend that?

MR. CUNNINGHAM:

We did not recommend it.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Why? Would that be considered more maintenance rather than Capital?

MR. CUNNINGHAM:

No, we felt that there were four Capital Projects, in the existing Capital Program that would essentially address infrastructure improvements of the like that is being proposed here. One of those projects is the Western Campus, which is essentially complete and which we spent approximately five and a half million dollars.

There is another project for the eastern campus for four hundred and fifty thousand dollars. And there are two projects on the Ammerman Campus, Project 2182 and Project 2200, in the amount of three million dollars and the amount of seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars that would address infrastructure improvements for the campus. And we felt that these projects should go forward and be essentially completed before we undertook or approved another site, another project of this like. The college has indicated in their request that they didn't anticipate needing this funding for this project until 2006, at the earliest.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

Okay and what Chuck is saying is that because of the State's five-year plan. But Chuck are you saying, in essence that if a Capital Project is not in place now that you can't introduce any new Capital Projects once that five-year plan is in place?

MR. STEIN:

What the State will probably say to us, should another one be introduced in the middle of their five-year program is okay, which one are you going to give up in order to do this one.

CHAIRPERSON FISHER:

You would be able to do replacement.

MR. STEIN:

It would be a trade off.

LEGISLATOR FISHER:

Okay. Thank you Tom. Any other issues? All right, okay. Question from Legislator Foley and we welcome Legislator Foley.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

A representative of the President's Office, part of the BRO Report mentions a track that we had appropriated monies for, at the Ammerman Campus and that was a legislative initiative several years ago. And within the BRO Report, it mentions that there's been a change by the administration that wishes to have -- to utilize those monies not so much as the traditional oval tract but to have it meander it through some woods some where is it? Is that -- am I?

MR. STEIN:

If we could comment on that? I'm not sure if Lauri is that familiar with it. She's fairly new to the school.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Okay.

MR. STEIN:

Paul?

MR. COOPER:

When we looked at the original track intent, which was a competitive 400-meter track, which was shown on college drawings back to the seventies. And we went to lay it out. The track did not fit in the site unless we cleared a very substantial portion of mature woods.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

What part of the campus are we talking about?

MR. COOPER:

The southern end of the -- the very southern end of the campus.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Closest to the mental health facility?

MR. COOPER:

Yes, correct. There is a clearing, which initially, I thought that's where the track was designed to go. Until we laid it out and the track is over 600 feet long, it does not fit in that clearing. Half of it would be in the woods. So we had the problem of cutting down mature woods, hundreds of trees. There's about a tree every 100 square feet. There's about six hundred large trees that would come down. And we thought there would be a cost problem because once you get out of that clearing, the ground is not flat anymore, we have baring typography. And we'd formed a committee and met with the Athletics Department, the Phys Ed Department, the cross country track coach, everyone interested in track and they felt they had no need for a competitive track. They have no track team, no plan to start a track team but they do have cross-country. And they do use running in the Phys Ed Programs. And they thought a recreational tract that would go in an existing path but pave it with a resilient surface would better suit their needs.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

The a -- who within the Phys Ed Department did you speak with?

MR. COOPER:

Art DelDuca who is the Chairman. Bob Mott who's the Cross-Country Coach, Jeanmarie Sharp.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

The division wasn't so much for cross-country, as it was for other track and field events. And the thinking at the time and I believe that when you first came on board was that this would allow the campus to be used as a venue, not only by the college students. And not only as an opportunity to create new athletic programs, which I would think that those on campus, particularly the Phys Ed Department AD would like to have new programs on campus. But it would also be utilized as a recruiting tool. And by that, I mean that particularly in Brookhaven Town, the School Districts in Brookhaven Town, particularly in the Eastern Brookhaven Town but even the more traditional ones, Sachem and the like are experiencing some of the largest growth on all of Long Island. And the thinking was by having a competitive tract at Ammerman, where it's just a short ride for those school districts within the Brookhaven Township that it be another opportunity, if you will, for the college to put its best foot forward by hosting high school events as other college campuses do.

They just don't only post college events but also whether it's a County Championship, or a League Championship, or a Long Island Championship, that way you get a whole group of young men and women, particularly in track and field events they would see the college. They would come on the college grounds. And if you couple that with some vision on the part of the Athletic Department where you would try to create new programs, particularly track and field, you'd have that many more students, I think, who would want to be attending the community college.

So that's one of the reasons. That's the primary reason why, I as the prime sponsor of the resolution, had put this forward, as a way not only to meet the needs of the college but for those who have a broader vision. That also as a way for recruitment tool for the college to recruit prospective students and plus, when you think of track and field, particularly in the spring, when students are making decisions as to where they're going to be going the following year, I mean to me it was a natural. But then again, you know, we can't micromanage the college but I still would submit to you that that still is a vision worth pursuing.

MR. STEIN:

I think I understand what you're saying. And I think until this thing was laid out and the significant implications with respect to the woods, it's actually going to be devastating. And I think that raised a number of issues. And then there was the discussion with the Phys Ed Department about it. But certainly, you know, this is something that will be of continuing discussion both with the --

LEGISLAOR FOLEY:

There's no cleared land around the campus that you could put it there?

MR. STEIN:

We have a --

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

I don't disbelieve you, I'm just, you know --

MR. STEIN:

No, no.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

I really thought there --

MR. STEIN:

Hollbrok, a rather large drawing.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Okay.

MR. STEIN:

He just happened to have it in his back pocket.

MR. STEIN:

In his wallet, you know.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

You can come forward here, in front of the long table, so we can all see it.

MR. COOPER:

This is the track.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Right.

MR. COOPER:

The stairs.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Um-um.

MR. COOPER:

This is the original.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Right.

MR. COOPER:

Everything in green is woods.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

What about -- well, the obvious question -- what about moving it further to the north?

MR. COOPER:

There's a baseball field there.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Okay. You still have some divots in there too, I understand. You couldn't do a 220 track, 220 is out of the question?

MR. COOPER:

You can do it but you wouldn't -- I don't think you would have competitive needs that warrant it here.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Okay.

MR. COOPER:

Most high schools already have competitive 400-meter tracks.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

I guess we wouldn't want to lose this opportunity because I really feel that when you have the opportunity to host events, you have the opportunity then to make the argument to expand the Athletic Program. As we know, football, which is what someone spoke about is the most expensive sport that colleges and high schools have to budget for. Track and field is among the least expensive. And it's all again, it's just a way by broadening those programs, be they academic or athletic at the college, you're going to have more people attend the college. So I would just hope that somehow you can find a way to put that into the campus one way or the other.

LEGISLATOR LINDSAY:

Our Chairlady went to the Omnibus Meeting to voice her opinion about the library on the East End, so forgive her for leaving. Does anybody else have any other questions, comments? You know just something and I'm not on the Education Committee and maybe it's too simplistic but we're talking in the budget here of implementing some new programs like the HBACR Building. The track is a new, you know, is a new thing that was in there. But yet, we talked about not having a library on the East End that could risk our credentials. I mean, is that something that should be looked at before we start any new program to protect a whole campus on the East End because of a lack of adequate library?

MR. STEIN:

Well, when we put our program together some months ago for submission, at that point in time, the Capital Program, which was approved last year did include the Library Resource Center and you know --

LEGISLATOR LINDSAY:

Well, my point is that if somewhere's through the Omnibus process, if offsets or you know, you have to look for offsets, you know, maybe one of the new programs could be delayed to get the library done. You know that's just a thought. Legislator Nowick.

LEGISLATOR NOWICK:

Yes, I'm just trying to understand something. The money was in the Budget last year for the library?

MR. STEIN:

No. Again, you have a Budget and Program. It's a combination. The Budget is for the one year, the subsequent year from when you approve it. The program extends a number of years beyond that. What was included with last year's approval was the Library and Resource Center at the Eastern Campus in subsequent years. It wasn't part of the following year's Budget. In other words, the money wasn't there. The project was included in your program for subsequent years.

LEGISLATOR NOWICK:

The Program Budget.

MR. CUNNINGHAM:

I think, I may be able to clarify something. When the Capital Program is presented by the County Executive, he's not held to what the County Legislature adopted in the previous year. It all starts from scratch each year. So if a project is approved like the Library and Resource Center, he doesn't have to include that in his proposal. And it holds no weight unless you amend the Executive's Proposed Capital Program for the current year and put it back in. Does that answer your question?

LEGISLATOR NOWICK:

Yes, I was just trying to figure it out if it wasn't in this year where, in fact, did that money go? But it wasn't actually --

MR. CUNNINGHAM:

The money wasn't in later years in 2006 and beyond, 2205.

MR. STEIN:

I was just handed what actually was included and it showed planning and design and supervision in 2004. And it included construction in 2005, including furniture and equipment in 2005. That's what had been included.

LEGISLATOR NOWICK:

And it's no longer included.

MR. STEIN:

And it is no longer included.

LEGISLATOR NOWICK:

Okay, thank you.

LEGISLATOR LINDSAY:

Go ahead.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

I think, just for the record too, Legislator Foley stated it and Legislator Carpenter stated it also. They are at another Budget Meeting in an adjoining room. Legislator Caracappa, who is in and out of this room is also present at this

and has been present at this Budget Hearing. And as well as the Budget Hearing that's taking place in the back room at this very moment so --

MR. STEIN:

Thank you for your support.

LEGISLATOR LINDSAY:

Does anyone have any other questions on education? Thank you very much for coming. I don't see anything in the packet here that applies to this group of committees unless someone else has another question. Brian?

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Mr. Stein, are there any Capital Budget needs for the three campus newspapers? You don't have to answer that today.

LEGISLATOR LINDSAY:

Some of the other committees that were included in this group of hearings was Human Resources, Economics, Vets and Seniors. I don't see again, anything in the Budget document that addresses any of those committees. But if there's anybody here that would like to address us on any one of those committees, please come forward. Seeing none, motion to adjourn is in order.

(The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 P.M.)