

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY APRIL 29, 2021 AT 6:30 PM**

Board Members Present: Anthony Perugini-Chair; Adam Grippo-Vice Chair; Kathryn Hallen-Secretary; Faith Ham, Anne Harrigan, Andrew Martelli, Timothy White

Board Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Jeffrey F. Solan, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools; Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Vincent Masciana, Chief Operating Officer

Others: Charles Warrington and John Koplas from Colliers

Public access made available through live streaming the Cheshire Public School's YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/cheshirepublicschools . Public comments were accepted at CPSCovid19@cheshire.k12.ct.us .
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1. CALL TO ORDER – 7:30 P.M.

- A. *Roll for Quorum.* The roll was called and a quorum determined.
- B. *Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.*
Mr. Martelli led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. AUDIENCE
None.

3. UPDATE ON CAPITAL PROJECTS SCHEDULED FOR SUMMER

Mr. Masciana provided a quick overview of the major construction projects that will be taking place this summer. He shared a list of the high-level projects (copy on file) that will be done. Projects will begin the day after school ends and continue throughout the summer. Projects scheduled to be done include:

- Doolittle - Bathroom Renovation (PBC)
- Doolittle - UST Replacement (Capital)
- Doolittle - Boiler Replacement (Capital)
- Doolittle - Main Entrance Renovation (PBC)
- Doolittle - Step Repair/Replacement (Capital)
- Doolittle - Classroom Renovation (TBD)
- CHS - ADA Improvement (Door Replacement - (PBC)
- CHS - Security (Main Entrance Renovation - (PBC)
- CHS - Thorpe Auditorium/Trophy Showcase ACT Replacement (Capital)
- CHS - Stairwell Flooring Replacement (Capital)
- CHS - UST Removal
- CHS - Regenerator Installation (HVAC)
- Highland - Boiler Replacement (Capital)

- Highland - Security (Main Entrance Renovation - (PBC)
- Highland - Classroom Renovations (TBD)
- Highland - Replace Windows and Millwork Rooms 4 & 5
- Norton - Kitchen Modernization (PBC)
- Norton - UST Modification - New Fuel Lines and Pump set (TBD)
- Dodd - Security (Main Entrance Renovation (PBC)
- Dodd - HVAC Renovation (Capital)
- Dodd - Roof Replacement (Capital) Roof Section TBD
- Dodd - ACT System Replacement (Capital)
- Dodd - Sidewalk Repair (Capital)

4. **CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH PERFORMANCE ENVIRONMENTAL FOR 2021-22**

Mr. Masciana said he is recommending the extension of the cleaning contract with Performance Environmental. He explained they have been cleaning the Cheshire Public School facilities since July 1, 2014. Performance was especially responsive to our initial increased cleaning and disinfecting needs during the early stages of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Moreover, they were very understanding when were forced to discontinue using their services and stopped paying on our contracted services effective March 27, 2020 after our buildings were closed. During the 2020-21 School Year, Performance Environmental proved again to be extremely understanding and cooperative with our elimination of the typical summer cleaning service that occurs in July and August and the associated billing. In addition to providing a greatly enhanced cleaning/sanitizing/disinfecting protocol with our contracted daily cleaning throughout this school year, they also provided training for our school employees on the enhanced protocols, helped us source a supply of difficult to obtain Of equal importance is the fact that they were able to provide very reliable day porters for each of our schools who have proven to be extremely diligent at their prescribed intraday sanitizing/disinfecting duties this year.

Mr. Masciana reviewed that for 2021-22, a \$38,000 increase in the base contract to \$757,784, or 5.3% was negotiated. An increase was requested by Performance due primarily to their increased cost of COVID-19 effective disinfecting supplies and cleaning protocols as well as the fact that the minimum wage in Connecticut is increasing from \$12 to \$13 per hour on August 1, 2021. The \$38,000 increase will be offset by expected billing credits of \$56,784 resulting in net contract cost for 2021-22 totaling \$700,910.

MOTION: by Mr. Martelli and seconded by Ms. Hallen.

MOVED that the Board of Education extend the contract with Performance Environmental, LLC from 7/1/2021 to 6/30/2022 with a base contract of \$757,784.

Discussion: Ms. Ham asked if there is a way to set the price to do a two-year extension. Mr. White said he is not inclined to extend and it would be worthwhile to go out to bid again. Board member asked Mr. Masciana to discuss a two-year extension with Performance Environmental.

VOTE: The Motion passed 6-1 (Ms. Ham opposed)

5. SCHOOL MODERNIZATION PLAN

Martelli said tonight, as a Board they need to determine how to move a project forward to the Town Council or go back to the drawing board. He said the first thing that needs to take place is to schedule a series of public forums. The Board needs to hear community feedback. He said the next step should be to issue another Request for Proposal. Locations need to be determined for the proposed elementary schools. A feasibility study needs to be done for Humiston School and Central Office.

Dr. Solan gave a brief presentation that recapped the projects and costs in addition to steps necessary to move forward. He shared his perspective on the two projects. While he thinks both options should be pursued, he recommends the construction of an elementary school and a new middle school for grades 6-8. He reviewed the results of a survey given to 6-8 grade teachers and department chairs. He said 90% of staff surveyed prefer a Grade 6-8 middle school option. He reviewed possible challenges and benefits of a 6-8 grade middle school. Mr. Solan said the Central Office administration recommendation would be a Grade 6-8 middle school.

There was a lengthy discussion between Board members regarding the two options with a strong consensus to schedule the community forums.

Mr. Chuck Warrington from Colliers noted that the Town Council is busy with their operating budget but then want to delve into the financial side of the projects. He said the next steps is to do high-level test fits. They need to engage with a design firm. Right now the projects are being discussed at a high level and they need to start getting more granular to dive a little deeper into the two options, along with the community outreach. He said he does not recommend educational specs until they do a high-level test fit. Next steps should be an RFP for a test fit from an architectural firm. Mr. Warrington said it would be about 2.5 months to get a feasibility study. He said one of the things a test fit will tell is whether or not they can use a town-owned property or if they need to purchase land. The Board discussed a few of the properties that the town said are available such as Bartlem Park, the Casertano property and Bartlem Park.

Mr. Warrington said we have to have the results by mid-August for a November referendum. He said there are some challenges with this but the Town Council wants to get this right. Mr. Perugini said no one wants to drag their feet on this but they don't want to put something out to the community that is not ready. If we can't get to

referendum by November, it is okay. Mr. Warrington added that this also has to be vetted with the Town Council as they are a partner in the project.

Mr. Martelli summarized that the next steps are to issue a Request for Proposals to test fit the schools and to schedule the forums.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Ms. Hallen, and seconded by Mr. White, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Martelli, Planning Committee Chair

Attest:

Carol K. Jesensky, Board of Education Clerk

Filed at the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, Cheshire: _____.