

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD MAY 6, 2021 BY VIDEO CONFERENCE**

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Planning Committee Members Present: Andrew Martelli, Timothy White, Kathryn Hallen

Additional Attendees Present: Vincent Masciana, Chief Operating Officer  
Richard Clavet, Facilities Manager  
Dan Bombero, Capital Project Manager

Public access made available through live streaming the Cheshire Public School's YouTube Channel at <a href="http://www.youtube.com/cheshirepublicschools">www.youtube.com/cheshirepublicschools</a> . Public comments were accepted at <a href="mailto:CPSCovid19@cheshire.k12.ct.us">CPSCovid19@cheshire.k12.ct.us</a> .
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**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Martelli called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**AUDIENCE**

Mr. Masciana reported there were no questions or comments received.

**REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL SOLAR ENERGY INSTALLATIONS**

Mr. Martelli explained that due to an unexpected illness, Mr. Michael Sahn, Senior Project Engineer for ECG Engineering, P.C., who is engaged as a consultant to assist with our review of potential solar installations, was unable to make the meeting and that Mr. Masciana would be making a presentation. Mr. Masciana shared his screen and proceeded to provide an update to the Committee from a PowerPoint presentation entitled *Cheshire PV Assessment – Ground Mount Systems Assessments* [Rev 4] that Mr. Sahn had prepared in advance of the meeting. The presentation provided an updated set of potential solar arrays at Highland and Doolittle Elementary schools. It was noted that there was no update for an array at Norton Elementary due to the potential school modernization option being discussed to renovate or build a new school on the existing site.

In the conversation that ensued during the review of the presentation and afterwards, the following points were made by the Committee members:

- At Highland, the preferred option was for a carport-type array in front of the building along the west side of the parking area that runs parallel to Route 10. The proposed array on the fields behind the school was not considered to be a viable option.
- At Doolittle, the preferred option was for a carport-type array along the parking and sidewalk area starting at the driveway entrance on Cornwall Avenue and running toward the school entrance. The proposed array on the field in front of Doolittle was not considered to be a viable option.
- At Cheshire High School, Mr. White discussed the merits of a possible array installation on the west side of the property near the existing pump station and also along the far side of the main game field along the driveway from Elmwood Circle.

- Regarding the construction of solar carports, the preference is for one that has a seamless deck that would prevent rain or snow melt from dripping between the solar panels. While adding cost, this was noted as a requirement for any such installation.
- As discussed in prior Planning Committee meetings, solar array options need to take into consideration that they need to be installed so as not to conflict with any potential future school modernization improvements.
- Another important consideration discussed for any array installed, is that it will be a 20-year commitment, as the funding for the installation and maintenance of a solar array would be completed utilizing a 20-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).

Mr. Martelli expressed that he does not want to move forward with any of the proposed arrays at this time due to several factors including the large size of the arrays taking away from the aesthetics at Highland and the other schools, and also the potential for incorporating solar into future school modernization projects. Mr. White expressed that he would like to move forward with arrays at Highland, Doolittle and Cheshire High School. Ms. Hallen added that she would like to see the results of an RFP (Request for Proposal) to better understand the merits of proposed solar arrays. Mr. White suggested that if we install arrays that are less than 100kW, such projects are not time-sensitive as they do not follow the deadlines of the medium and large ZREC projects that currently have a submission requirement of June 14, 2021.

Mr. Masciana stated that he would work with Mr. Clavet and Mr. Bombero to review the prior RFP's that were completed by the Town. He also stated that he would speak to JK Energy Solutions, the firm who completed other energy improvement projects as an approved vendor of the Eversource Energy Efficiency Program, to determine their experience level and if they could assist with solar projects as an approved Eversource vendor. He committed that he will then come back to the Committee with a plan on how to proceed.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mr. White, which was seconded by Ms. Hallen, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

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Vincent J. Masciana  
Chief Operating Officer

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Carol Jesensky, Executive Assistant

Filed at the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, Cheshire: May 18, 2021.