

**MINUTES - BOARD OF EDUCATION PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE HUMISTON BOARD ROOM ON MARCH 7, 2023**

Planning Committee Members Present: Andrew Martelli, Timothy White, Samantha Rosenberg

Additional Attendees Present: Vincent Masciana - Chief Operating Officer
Richard Clavet – Director of Facilities Services
Dan Bombero – Project Manager
Aaron Alibrio – Johnson Controls

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Martelli called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AUDIENCE

No members of the public were present nor were there any questions or comments received.

PRESENTATION BY JOHNSON CONTROLS

Mr. Masciana provided a brief overview of the Capital Expenditure Plan and Budget that was recently approved by the Board of Education totaling \$52,825,500 for the 5-year period from 2023-24 to 2027-28. He noted the largest expenditures were for HVAC improvements, window replacements and roof replacements and suggested that by bundling some of the projects and adding additional energy cost reduction components, the projects can be financed through an arrangement such as the Energy Performance Contract that was completed with Ameresco several years ago. He cited Doolittle as an example and explained that if the capital budget requests of approximately \$3M to replace the roof, \$2.5M to replace the single-pane windows, and \$7M to add HVAC were grouped and included adding a solar array to reduce electricity costs, that perhaps the project could be financed through an energy performance type arrangement. He then introduced Mr. Aaron Alibrio from Johnson Controls, whose firm has experience in energy performance contracts and other specialty financing arrangements.

Mr. Alibrio made a presentation using PowerPoint entitled “Powering the blueprint of the future” in which he highlighted the challenges of managing and improving aging infrastructure in K-12 schools as well as the funding opportunities and benefits. Funding options presented include State and Federal government programs, cooperative purchasing, alternate contract vehicles, as well as bonds, loans and tax vehicles. Throughout the presentation, the Committee members asked questions and engaged in dialogue around the presentation topics. Mr. Alibrio explained that the next steps should the Committee decide to move forward, would be to complete a review of the buildings. The Committee members thanked Mr. Alibrio for the informative presentation.

The Committee expressed interest in moving forward to explore alternative ways in which to fund our capital projects and discussed the options for procurement to hire a firm to provide assistance. They asked Mr. Masciana to contact representatives from ECG Engineering, who served as the Owner’s Representative for the first energy performance contract with Ameresco, and report back to the Committee at the next meeting to be scheduled sometime in April.

UPDATE ON DOOLITTLE/HIGHLAND SOLAR CARPORTS

Mr. Masciana reported that he has been speaking to Mr. Mulvey of Energy Resources about obtaining pricing for a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) to construct the solar carports. He explained that he reviewed the recent cost of electricity at Doolittle and Highland which totaled 14.8 cents per kWh and asked Mr. Mulvey to attempt to obtain a PPA that would match that rate or, as an alternative if that rate was too low, to obtain the best offer(s) from interested firms. He advised that he will share the information as soon as it is received from Mr. Mulvey.

PHASE 2 – NEXT GENERATION SCHOOL MODERNIZATION PLAN

Mr. Martelli initiated a discussion on the next phase of school modernization. It was noted that although the construction of the two new elementary schools approved at referendum is just getting started, that beginning discussion to formulate a plan is important. It was decided by the Committee that the best place to start is with the recommendations made by the School Modernization Committee for Phase 2. Mr. Masciana was asked to distribute copies of the recommendations to the Committee in advance of the next meeting and further that discussion on Phase 2 would be included on the agenda for the next and future Planning Committee meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ms. Rosenberg, which was seconded by Mr. White, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Vincent J. Masciana
Chief Operating Officer

Carol Jesensky, Executive Assistant

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