

**MINUTES - BOARD OF EDUCATION PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD VIRTUALLY ON MARCH 13, 2024**

Planning Committee Members Present: Mark Ecke, Timothy White, Samantha Rosenberg
Additional Attendees Present: Jeffrey Sola – Superintendent of Schools
Vincent Masciana - Chief Operating Officer
Richard Clavet – Director of Facilities Services

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Ecke called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AUDIENCE

No members of the public were present as it was a virtual meeting and there were no questions or comments received by email.

HIGHLAND PORTABLE CLASSROOMS UPDATE

The Committee was shown on the virtual screen the summary section of a new report on housing development that was provided by Michael Glidden, the Town Planner. At present, there are 604 apartment units that are either under construction or anticipated to begin construction in 2024 plus an additional 188 single family home projects under construction in Cheshire. Mr. Masciana explained that most of the new development is in the student capture area for Highland Elementary School which is already nearing maximum capacity with approximately 893 students attending. He commented that the previously approved decision was a good one to install two new portable classrooms at Highland Elementary School in order to accommodate the enrollment growth over the next two years while the two new elementary schools are being built.

He updated the Committee that based on a Request for Proposals (RFP) issued on 2-16-24, a Notice of Award was issued to Nadler Modular for the purchase or lease of two portable classrooms and that efforts are underway to have them installed and ready for use in time for the 2024-25 school year. With a purchase price of \$242,600 or a 3-year lease cost of \$175,000, the total project cost including design fees, site work, etc. can be completed within the allocated budget of \$450,000. The Committee discussed the purchase versus lease options with a general consensus that a purchase may be a better option based on cost, future use and past experience with portables. Mr. Masciana explained that a final decision on purchase versus leasing will be made after the initial project meeting is held next week.

UPDATE ON ENERGIA AND ENERGY PERFORMANCE CONTRACT 2.0

Mr. Masciana shared a presentation provided by Energia dated 3/7/2024 which reported that their initial review identified approximately \$220,000 in energy savings on school buildings and \$115,000 on town buildings that could potentially fund an energy performance contract of approximately \$6M. Based on their recommendation, the initiative is proceeding to the next step in the process in which the Town and Schools will issue an RFP seeking an Energy Performance Contract with qualified companies. Mr. Masciana explained that this is a no-cost, no-obligation step in line with the agreement previously signed with Energia which will identify detailed energy conservation measures that would be undertaken to achieve a viable contract. Mr. White asked that we ensure that incentives, including those available through the Inflation Reduction Act, are

considered. Ms. Rosenberg asked that the Planning Committee is kept apprised of relevant steps as the project progressed and Mr. Masciana stated that he would provide a copy of the RFP when it was ready and being submitted for review by the Town Attorney.

OTHER MATTERS

Mr. Masciana and Mr. Clavet provided updates and responded to questions on the HVAC Grants that are in process with the State, as well as the following key projects that are underway for completion in the Summer of 2024:

- Dodd Boiler Replacement
- West Gym Locker Renovations
- Dodd Fire Alarm Replacement
- Preliminary Site Work at Norton related to the new school construction

Mr. White asked that efforts continue to explore and attempt to secure fixed long-term utility rates for the school buildings. Mr. Masciana confirmed that it is still on his radar to do so with further discussion at future Planning Committee meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. White, which was seconded by Ms. Rosenberg and voted upon unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Vincent J. Masciana
Chief Operating Officer

Carol Jesensky, Executive Assistant

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