MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 5, 2026 AT NORTON SCHOOL

Planning Committee Members Present:	Mark Ecke, Chair; Tim White (Arrived at 6:12PM); Samantha Rosenberg (Virtual)
Planning Committee Members Absent:	None
Administrators Present:	Emily Taylor - Chief Operating Officer Kevin Hanlon - Principal, Cheshire High School John Perosino- Athletic Director

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   Mark Ecke called the meeting to order at 5:47 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
   Board Members were informed that no correspondence had been received.

3. **CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLAN**

   Ms. Taylor reviewed preliminary steps for the Cheshire High School Turf and Track Replacement Project, which has an approved project allocation of $1.9 million, inclusive of a $1.5 million state grant. The district is targeting construction during summer 2027 and must complete the required Department of Administrative Services (DAS) grant application and approvals before proceeding with eligible work.

   Ms. Taylor reviewed SLR's January proposal and prior engagement for $7,500 in preliminary design services. She discussed the remaining professional services, including permitting, construction documents, bidding assistance, and potential support with the DAS grant application. SLR indicated that it would honor its previously proposed professional fees. The committee discussed the firm's experience with district projects and the potential to consider its engagement at the November 19 meeting, following further discussion with SLR.

   Committee members raised concerns about whether the proposed construction schedule could accommodate the full replacement of the turf and track within the summer window. Members requested clarification regarding the six-week construction estimate and 16 weeks of construction-phase services, as well as a detailed schedule, weather and unforeseen-condition contingencies, and the potential impact of delays on fall athletics. The committee also discussed advance staging of materials and possible alternatives if the field is not ready for the beginning of the fall season.

   Athletic Director John Perosino discussed anticipated use of the facility through early June for spring athletics and the possibility of coordinating alternate practice locations with Parks and Recreation. He indicated that he would raise the possibility of scheduling early fall contests away from home with the athletic conference, particularly to provide

flexibility for football and other fall sports. Members emphasized the importance of communication with coaches, families, athletic organizations, and community field users.

The committee reviewed potential procurement approaches for the turf and track installation, including state contract or cooperative purchasing options compared with a competitive bid. Members expressed interest in reviewing available products and vendors before making a recommendation. The discussion also addressed the project contingency, potential supplemental funding from accumulated athletic ticket receipts, and possible ancillary improvements; no additional funding commitment was approved.

Emily Taylor recommended that the Board of Education serve as the project building committee, consistent with the district's approach to other capital projects. Members discussed the Board's ability to provide oversight and approvals while allowing staff and consultants to coordinate day-to-day work, as well as opportunities for public and stakeholder input through Planning Committee meetings. Ms. Taylor outlined the anticipated resolutions and Town Council approvals needed for the DAS grant process, including establishment of the building committee and preparation of schematic documents. Planning and Zoning review may also be required at a later project stage.

The committee discussed returning on November 19, 2026, to consider SLR's engagement and the proposed resolutions, with the goal of seeking subsequent Town Council action in early December. Emily Taylor will follow up with SLR and DAS regarding project scope, grant requirements, approvals, and scheduling. No formal project motion was taken at this meeting.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Ecke, the Motion passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Emily Taylor, Chief Operating Officer

Attest:

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Carol K. Jesensky, Board of Education Clerk

Filed at the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, Cheshire: November 10, 2026.