



Finance & Operations Committee

February 8, 2024

MINUTES

Meeting called to order by: Member Kehoe at 5:02 p.m.

Board of Ed members present: Kehoe, Christenson, Picard

District staff: Merritt, Minnick, Gruszczynski, Jory

Citizen Reps: Roderique, McKee **SVA Rep:** none **Others present:** John Johnston

Presenter(s): W. McCarthy, B. Gesaman/McCarthy & Smith; D. Dinkeloo/TMP

Architecture

Public Comments – Mr. Johnston asked for an update on his staffing question from the last meeting. He had been directed to review the HR presentation on staffing that was to be presented at the January 23rd, 2024 Board of Education meeting, however, due to inclement weather, that meeting was cancelled. The presentation regarding staffing will be now presented at the February 13th meeting.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes – January 18, 2024 - approved.

Approval to Move Item - Purchase of Six (6) Combi Ovens for P-CEP Kitchens - to First and Final Reading at the February 13, 2024 Board of Education Meeting

Meeting – This item was presented at the Finance & Operations Meeting held on January 18th, and it was scheduled for first reading before the Board of Education on January 23, 2024 however that meeting was cancelled due to bad weather. Mr. Tyszkiewicz drafted a memo to request that this purchase go before the Board of Education at the meeting scheduled for February 13, 2024 as a first and final reading. This will prevent any delays in the delivery and installation of this equipment. Mr. Kehoe was not at the last committee meeting so he is requesting additional information to support the sourcing on this purchase.

Easement for Bid Package #HS-2a (Plymouth HS Band Room Addition – Mr. Gruszczynski and Mr. Gesaman explain to the Committee the need for approving an easement to move the water main in the area of the new Plymouth HS Band Room addition. This easement will be presented for first and final reading at the Board of Education meeting on February 13, 2024.

Tennis Court Replacement Discussion/Concept Drawings- Mr. Gesaman and Mr. Dinkeloo present an initial look at the planned future tennis court replacement. The information includes a look at the scope of the project. He shares that this has been a topic of discussion since last spring when safety issues arose due to cracking. The bond team has been working with the high school administration and coaches to determine what they

require, and also to determine what type of water retention will be required with the project. The presentation contains a slide about the project budget, and Mr. Gesaman explains the different materials that can be used with their pros and cons. In the past tennis courts were made with an asphalt blend, and that did not hold up well. In recent years a post-tensioned concrete material has come on to the market, and it has a projected 50 year life. The project construction, if approved, would begin in April of 2024, with a project completion date of fall of 2024. The APAAs and coaches are all in agreement that this replacement would be the preferred option, and are aware and willing to reschedule girl's spring tennis to an off-site location in order to accomplish the replacement this summer. Member Kehoe suggests that we may need to consider a first and final reading to expedite the start of construction.

Prepare for Annual Budget Survey – Ms. Minnick introduces the topic of the annual budget survey. Today's packet includes a copy of the survey questions that we used last year. The committee is in agreement with using the same questions as last year. The key dates begin with tonight's discussion, open the survey tomorrow, bring the results back to this committee on March 7, and present the findings to the Board of Education at the meeting scheduled for March 12, 2024. It is also shared that the annual Budget Transformation meeting will occur on April 4th. This allows for time to incorporate the suggestions of the community into the budgeting process.

Miscellaneous Topics

- Member Kehoe adds the discussion topic of the costs related to the athletics and activities programs, the costs associated with many of these sports and activities the district covers, what the boosters pay, and what costs families incur. We need to look at equity among all groups. Superintendent Merritt points out that the first step in this is determining exactly what we want to learn with this exercise, and to establish clarity and direction. She feels that this is a big topic, and once a process and expectations are set, there will be Board subcommittee work required to get to a point where we can take this topic. Member Kehoe would like to have a collaborative process to tackle this important topic, and he would like to start soon. Member Picard suggests categorizing the groups into types to make it easier to compare. Some groups do a lot of fundraising for things they need, but some groups choose to fundraise for things they want but may not need, like banquets.
- Member Christenson mentions the Non-Homestead Tax Renewal marketing campaign. Superintendent Merritt shares that the district will have three 3 factual mailers going out to the community. There has been a page published on the district website and on our social media pages with a lot of information about the topic, and a video that covers the issue. We have supplied a FAQ to all buildings to help field calls and questions from the community. The Plymouth PM Rotary Club has invited the Superintendent and Board to their meeting to answer questions. The district cannot use district resources to advocate for voting yes, only provide factual information, but Board members can advocate for a yes vote outside of district media. Board members can also advocate to vote yes during Board meetings.

Adjourned: **6:25 p.m.**