

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ellington, Connecticut

Operations Committee Meeting Minutes

The Operations Committee of the Ellington Board of Education met Monday, October 30, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Ellington Board of Education located at 47 Main Street, Ellington, CT.

Attendees:

Board of Education Members: Ms. Anne Marie Hayes, Mr. Michael Purcaro, Ms. Kerry Socha

Administrative Team Members: Dr. Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Brian Greenleaf, Director of Finance & Operations (via phone); and Mr. Rob Butler, Director of Facilities

Agenda Items:

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:19 p.m. by Mr. Purcaro.

II. Citizen and Staff Forum

There was no public comment.

III. Discussion Items

1. Proposed Climbing Wall Project – Crystal Lake PTO

Mr. Butler explained that the Crystal Lake PTO wished to donate a climbing wall for the gym at Crystal Lake School. Dr. Nicol explained the procedure moving forward on the project. The Operations Committee role would be to approve the project in concept and the Board would approve the actual donation of money.

Motion: A motion was made to recommend the climbing wall project to the full Board of Education.

1st. A. Hayes

2nd. K. Socha

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

2. Proposed 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan.

Dr. Nicol explained the priorities for next year include a scheduled refresh of teacher workstations for Center School and Ellington High School, a replacement van for the transition program, a facilities study, modern classroom furniture, and AC projects at Ellington High School, Ellington Middle School and Center School.

Ms. Hayes asked about the large number for technology upgrades. Mr. Greenleaf explained this was the upfront cost, but the Town leases the equipment over four years. The cost every year to the Town is the same, which is why the same amount is shown in 2022-2023.

Ms. Socha questioned the difference in cost for the special education van between the years. Mr. Greenleaf explained that the cost is lower this year because the Board is looking to lease the vehicle in 2017-2018. This lease arrangement is meant to save money, as the current van has close to 200,000 miles and needs \$6,000 in repairs to get back on the road.

Mr. Purcaro asked about the scope of the facilities study. Mr. Greenleaf notes the administration is looking to perform an enrollment study and building assessment to assist in developing any large scale capital projects for the next 5-10 years. He states that the administration is likely to bring in members from the Town PBC, parents, and other interested parties to assist in the effort, however the final concept has not been developed. Mr. Purcaro states that NESDEC should be able to perform an enrollment study for free.

Ms. Hayes asks about where the money would go and which the schools that would be included. Mr. Greenleaf states that they would likely hire an architect or other consultant to help assess the schools and options for renovation/expansion as needed based on the enrollment study. Crystal Lake would be excluded from the study, as it was just renovated and expanded.

Dr. Nicol explains the projects in the later years of the improvement plan. Ms. Socha asks about the Windermere project, including Photovoltaic. Mr. Greenleaf explains this would be a solar project following the roof replacement where the Town or Board of Education owns the solar panels and receives ZREC credits directly.

The priorities for the 2018-2019 projects are as follows:

1. Special Education Van
2. Facilities Study
3. Modern Classroom Furniture
4. Center School Cafeteria Air Conditioning
5. Ellington Middle School Cafeteria Air Conditioning
6. Ellington High School Cafeteria Air Conditioning

Motion: A motion was made to recommend the 2018-2023 Capital Improvement Plan to the full Board of Education.

1st. A. Hayes 2nd. G. Blanchette

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

IV. Old Business/New Business

Ms. Socha asked the administration to look into the parking and bus situation at Windermere School. She cited frustration among parents regarding the parking situation for parents picking up and dropping off students. Dr. Nicol stated that this is of concern by the administration and long term solution is required.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Michael Purcaro
Operations Committee Chair