

A meeting of the Operations Committee was held on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, in the Board of Education Conference Room, 47 Main Street, Ellington, CT.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Kerry Socha.

PRESENT Kerry Socha, Chair, Gary Blanchette, Jen Dzen, Miriam Underwood (virtual), Liz Nord, Steve Viens

ALSO PRESENT Ms. Alisha Carpino, Director of Finance and Operations
Dr. Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Greg Kliman, Director of Facilities
Mr. Brandon HuBrins, Assistant Principal, Ellington High School
Mr. Anderson Rawlins, Director of Athletics and Wellness

AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion of Branding Approaches Including Finances

Mr. Brandon Hubrins, Assistant Principal, Ellington High School along with Anderson Rawlins, Director of Athletics and Wellness presented an overview of a plan for branding for the Ellington High School that included upgrades to the school store and visual additions throughout the inside and outside of the building. Financing was discussed and how branding can be initially funded, but ultimately supported by the revenue from the school store. A Board action item was recommended.

Annual 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan 2024 - 2029

Ms. Carpino presented the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2024-2030. The recommendation of the Administration is to continue with this process in the way in which the Board of Education has previously requested CIP monies. Instead of proposing to the Town by project, there will be three "buckets" of money that can be rolled over if not fully spent in any given year: Vehicle Replacement, Equipment Upgrades, and CIP Construction Projects. The amount of the request would be intended to be consistent each year. A Board action item was recommended.

Discussion on Additional Transportation

Ms. Carpino presented the option of applying for ARPA funding through the town to fund purchasing an additional transportation vehicle. Ms. Carpino stated that, if funded, the additional vehicle would help to address some challenges with transportation related to Special Education and Athletics. The recommendation of the administration after reviewing different options is to present to the Board the option of applying for ARPA funding for a minibus to support academic and extra-curricular programming including athletics. A Board action item was recommended.

Update on Town Lighting Project

Ms. Carpino stated that the bid opening for the Town Lighting Project would be happening on Wednesday, October 18, 2023. Ms. Carpino stated that she spoke with Tom Modzelewski about the project and how they intend to stay in communication as the project progresses.

Update on Windermere Project

Ms. Carpino provided an update on the Windermere Project. Ms. Carpino shared that the bid opening would be happening on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, and that she would be in attendance. Ms. Carpino also stated that the start date for construction had been moved to December 10, 2023. Setting a groundbreaking ceremony date was discussed.

Update on HVAC Project

Mr. Greg Kliman, Director of Facilities provided an update on the HVAC Project. Mr. Kliman stated that the HVAC subcommittee chose BL Companies as the architecture firm for the project. Mr. Kliman stated that the contract has

been executed and that physical blueprints had been provided to BL Companies that they were digitizing. Mr. Kliman also shared that BL Companies would be at the schools on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, for a walkthrough of the buildings that are a part of the HVAC project.

Continued Discussion of Weather Process

Dr. Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools provided an overview of the current weather decision-making process within the district that would lead to school closure, late opening or early release. Dr. Nicol also stated that ongoing assessment of and investment in available resources utilized to better mitigate weather-related conditions continues and that the administration awaits the Summer 2024 Department of Public Health's guidelines on optimal classroom conditions as required by a new statute passed this past legislative session.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

First: L. Nord

Second: M. Underwood

To adjourn the meeting of the Operations Committee (7:08 p.m.)

Motion carried unanimously.

Approved

Respectfully submitted by Ms. Kerry Socha, Operations Committee Chair