

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ellington, Connecticut

Operations Committee Meeting Minutes

The Operations Committee of the Ellington Board of Education met for a virtual meeting on Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at 3:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Board of Education Members: Mr. Gary Blanchette, Ms. Jen Dzen, Ms. Liz Nord, Ms. Kerry Socha and Ms. Miriam Underwood.

Administrative Team Members: Dr. Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Brian Hendrickson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Mr. Brian Greenleaf, Director of Operations and Finance and Ms. Rebecca Gonzalez, Director of Facilities.

Also in attendance: Ms. Jennifer Brown, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Human Resources Coordinator and Mr. Edward Widofsky, Tecton Architects.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Ms. Socha at 3:31 p.m.

Agenda Items:

1. *Discussion on Facilities*

Mr. Brian Greenleaf and Ms. Rebecca Gonzalez provided an update on the status of the buildings and maintenance efforts during the Distance Learning period.

Deep cleaning of the buildings commenced a few weeks ago, currently at the halfway mark of being completed in each school. Since schools are empty the maintenance team is taking on more projects such as organizing and removing debris. In addition, they are gathering a list of items that can be taken on now instead of the summer such as painting, stripping and waxing floors and asphalt sealing.

Questions regarding sanitization were raised. Ms. Gonzalez stated that all electronics, Chromebooks and high touch points have been sanitized. Custodians are also re-sanitizing if it is necessary for someone to come into the building.

2. *Windermere Building Project*

Committee Chair Socha opened the floor for questions and discussion. Ms. Nord requested we discuss the current timeline of approvals for the project. There was some

concern amongst committee members that with the current timeline there is worry that the project will not pass with the ongoing pandemic.

Dr. Nicol reviewed the current approvals, which were for an April 27 Board of Selectmen meeting for a May 26 referendum, which he believes is not the best course of action with the current events taking place. No decisions need to be made today, however discussing what the process and timeline would look like if we decide to delay or postpone would be beneficial.

If we were to delay the process to a fall referendum, we would still need to apply with the state by June 30, which would include a silent period start date in June. The fall referendum would need to take place by mid-November. It is recommended that a fall referendum be further explored. Those sentiments were echoed by board members and administrative members as the referendum should have its own independent focus.

The Operations Committee will convene in two weeks to continue discussing options for the Windermere Building Project referendum.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:28 pm.

1st. J. Dzen

2nd. L. Nord

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Kerry Socha

Operations Committee, Chair