

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FINANCE AND FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2022 @ 5:00 PM**

Special Meeting Topics: --Facilities Update

--Discussion of Capital Budget FY2023-24

--Discussion of Operating Budget FY2023-24

Place and Time: Plainville High School Learning Commons, 47 Robert Holcomb Way, Plainville, CT

Members Present: Chair Foster White, Subcommittee Members Rachel Buchanan and Cassandra Clark

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Steven LePage, Superintendent of Schools
Sam Adlerstein, Director of Business and Operations
Mike Smith, Director of Facilities
Board Member: Becky Tyrrell

Early Departures: None

Chair Foster White called the special meeting of the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee to order at 5:05 PM.

Mr. LePage called the meeting of the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee together as a means of understanding and clarity of the items on this year's Capital and Operating Budgets. He stated that the Capital Budget is extremely high this year due to the many large deferred maintenance projects at the Middle School over the years and the fact that the Middle School Renovation project is not moving forward as anticipated.

FACILITIES UPDATE:

Mr. LePage then called upon Mike Smith, Director Facilities, who gave a brief update on the projects that have been done throughout the district since the beginning of the school year. (Those items are listed on the attached sheet)

Mrs. Clark stated that there were issues at Linden Street School of not having enough receptacles on the school grounds. Mr. Smith stated that he is aware of the problem and that the Town's Building and Grounds Department will be placing new receptacles throughout the area. If there is a delay Mr. Smith will bring in temporary barrels for use.

Mrs. Buchanan questioned the concerns about the High School pool. Mr. Smith stated that a new chemical system was installed to insure that the Chlorine and pH levels are where they should be and that the pool is safe for all who use it.

Mrs. Tyrrell stated that in years past, tours of the five schools were open to Board members after hours. She stated that this could help Board members to better understand the problems and various physical needs of each building. She asked if this could be reinstated. Mr. LePage thought it might be a good idea to reinstitute the tours.

CAPITAL BUDGET FY2023-24:

Mr. LePage gave a hand out to subcommittee members. He stated that this is the first time in a number of years that the Board and Town have seen a proposed capital plan that includes the Middle School's deferred maintenance. He stated that the Board will be asked to affirm a proposal at their December 12th business meeting. He then listed the items totaling \$4,223,250. He stated that in the past the Town has approved Capital plans in the range of \$300,000 to \$400,000. This is in large part due to the inclusion of the Middle School's deferred maintenance that was not included in the prior plans.

The Middle School is 80% of the FY24 proposal and \$6,446,000 over the five-year period. For many years the Board was instructed to eliminate the middle school's needs in anticipation of a building project. Mr. LePage stated that the costs and timeframes are listed based on the professional reports prepared last year as well as current

experience. Should the Board wish to exclude the estimate for the Middle School vestibule it would reduce the proposal by \$900,000. He stated that he hired a new Security and Safety Office this past year to make sure the main entrances are secure.

He then asked Mr. Ross to update the Subcommittee members on the Technology phase for 2023-24. Mr. Ross stated that he is putting forth a budget of \$1,909,000 for the following. Rewiring all offices and classrooms and new data racks at the Middle school; a new Public Access System, as the current system is tied into the classroom sound system and no longer meets the needs of the school; new 65"/75" displays for the Middle school with carts and installation; Student Chromebooks for grades 1, 5 and 9; For classroom audio, classroom sound system with wireless mics; Middle school staff laptops; Network upgrade: wireless upgrade (eRate); New lab hardware: 505 Lab for MSP STEM lab and hardware for PHS Art lab. Mr. Ross also discussed the savings by maintaining the districts own Chromebooks instead of outsourcing them for repair.

OPERATING BUDGET FY 2023-24:

Mr. LePage reviewed the contractual increase for 2023-24. The usual contractual increases would amount to 4.6% compared to our long-term overall average increase of less than 2.0%. Also, Town leaders and the Superintendent have been advised to use a 9% to 12% increase for Health insurance for 2023-24. Rates for the State Partnership Plan are to be updated in January and February and finalized in April. Mr. LePage stated that this budget continues to be a work in progress. The initial rollout of staffing and other contractual increases totaled 5.51%. Positions currently funded by ESSER, some of which we would like to retain, total 2.61%

Mr. Adlerstein spoke about the ESSER grant status. He stated that the district was awarded \$6.7M in ESSER funding of which \$3.0 is remaining. The district is down to its last ESSER grant, ARP, which expires on June 30, 2024. Approximately half of the remaining funds are planned for staffing with the balance to a variety of projects. Many of the plans are academic in nature. Mr. LePage then discussed December Facilities projects which includes a new bike rack; fence in the patio outside the library; greenhouse power/water; padding along walls in Wood Gym; Blacktop resurfacing at Linden and Toffolon; courtyard landscaping at Linden; Wood Gym Scoreboard/shot clocks at PHS; Display boards for student art show at Wheeler; purchase pressure washer for all schools; add more mulch to playground at Toffolon; obtain new manikins for CPR training and take down the wall in Special Education office area. These projects have an estimated cost of \$77,401.

Mr. LePage discussed how the ESSER funding had already been spent and what other projects have been proposed.

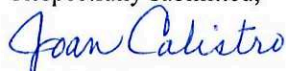
Mr. LePage stated that there are many obstacles to face this year, but as Superintendent, it is his job to put forth what is essential for the coming year.

Mr. LePage then asked the subcommittee members if there was a consensus as to what to put forth to fellow Board members at their upcoming meeting on December 12th. Discussion ensued.

CASSANDRA CLARK MADE A MOTION TO PUT FORTH A RECOMMENDED ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED CAPITAL BUDGET OF \$4,223,328 TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION ON DECEMBER 12, 2022. RACHEL BUCHANAN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RACHEL BUCHANAN TO ADJOURN THE POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING AT 6:42 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CASSANDRA CLARK. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,



Joan Calistro
Recorder of Minutes

Facilities Department Newsletter

The Facilities Department has been hard at work on various projects throughout the district since the beginning of the academic year. Some highlights from the department are as follows:

- The Facilities Department has a new Office Professional. Callyn Dalke is a PHS graduate and lives in Plainville. She is very excited to work for Plainville Schools and has already proven to be a great fit for the department.
- A New Chemical system was installed in the PHS pool. This is an updated way to make sure the pool Chlorine and pH levels are where they should be and the pool is safe for all that use it.
- A 36 capacity bike rack has arrived and will be installed at the high school. We have noticed an increase in the number of students riding bikes to school so a rack with more capacity was purchased.
- The small courtyard at Linden Street school will be getting a bit of a facelift. This will include removal of small stones and replacement of mulch in the planting beds as well as some minor pruning of the two trees in that area as well as some other work to clean the area up and make it a more usable space.
- Linden Street School is receiving a new Fire Panel. This is a much needed upgrade that will assure that the school is safe and monitored for smoke/fire for years to come.
- If you watch the nightly news you may see that there has been a spike in Flu cases as well as other respiratory illnesses throughout the Country. I want to assure all Plainville Families, Faculty and Staff that we continue to do all we can to try and mitigate exposure to viruses and bacteria. The HVAC systems at all the schools continue to use MERV 13 filters. These pleated filters utilize an electrostatic charge to remove very fine particles from the air, as well as potential allergens like mold, pollen, bacteria and even particles that carry viruses. All air handlers are programmed to run all day with continuous fresh air being circulated through the schools. These air handlers are also programmed to come on earlier and stay on later so the air can be “flushed” before and after the buildings are occupied.

Michael Smith
Director of Facilities