

MINUTES
PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S
FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LEARNING COMMONS
Thursday, June 1, 2023 – 5:30pm

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

- ▶ Discussion regarding potential sizeable donation to Plainville Community Schools and wishes of Dr. Gerald Bello
- ▶ Discussion regarding Proposed Toffolon School Playground (ESSER Project)
- ▶ Possible Realized Savings
- ▶ ESSER Grant Update
- ▶ Middle School Project update

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Foster White, Rachel Buchanan, Lori Consalvo (Ex-officio)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Steven LePage, Superintendent of Schools, Sam Adlerstein, Director of Business and Operations, Alicia Atterato, Toffolon School Principal and Crystal St. Lawrence.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cassandra Clark, Becky Tyrrell

Meeting was called to order at 5:35PM by Subcommittee Chair Foster White

▶ **Discussion regarding potential sizeable donation to Plainville Community Schools and wishes of Dr. Gerald Bello**

Mr. LePage stated that Dr. Bello has had a signed endowment fund agreement with the district since 2017. The agreement consists of seven components:

- 1) Five specific scholarships for graduating seniors.
- 2) Financial support to qualifying students in the areas of creative arts.
- 3) Designation of the band rehearsal room as the Grace Jersey Band Rehearsal Room and for repairs of band instruments and the creation of a memorabilia showcase related to band and theater.
- 4) Designation of the PHS Learning Commons as the Edith M & Generoso Bello Learning Commons.
- 5) Designation of the PHS front entrance as the Dr. Gerald Anthony Bello Entrance and Portico with some renovations specified.
- 6) Dr. Bello has also requested additional namings.

The agreement does not specify an exact evaluation, rather his intention is to bequeath the Plainville Community Schools the amount remaining in investments at the time of his death.

CONSENSUS: THE SUBCOMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED TO BRING THIS AGREEMENT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR APPROVAL AT THEIR NEXT MEETING ON JUNE 5, 2023.

▶ **Discussion regarding Proposed Toffolon School Playground (ESSER Project)**

Mr. LePage stated that when Toffolon School was renovated like new back in the 2008-2009 school year, Plainville did not offer Universal Pre-K to the community. The current early childhood playscape structure was placed based on the fact that Toffolon did not have any Pre-K students in the building at that time. At that point in time, the district's Pre-K program was housed at Linden.

We now have an average of 45-60 preschoolers in our full-day Pre-K program at Toffolon with very limited space to play. NAEYC accreditation requires that all of our preschoolers have a chance to play outside each day and follow the same schedule. Our current structure makes it difficult for all the children to play together in the same area. This is due to space and lack of equipment.

Our proposed equipment would give children more of an opportunity to grow both their gross and fine motor skills, as well as, provide choice and equity in line with the other playgrounds at Linden and Wheeler. Wheeler and Linden have recently improved grade 2-5 (early education) playscapes, and Toffolon's is certainly less equitable.

Toffolon Principal Alicia Atterrato answered questions of the subcommittee. Toffolon will not have a gaga pit as it would need to be installed on asphalt which is dangerous. She stated that they have looked into getting quotes and KOMPAN seems to be the most reasonable in cost, but there may be a need to cut the playhouse should the project go over budget.

CONSENSUS: THE SUBCOMMITTEE PROPOSES AN ESSER FUNDED TOFFOLON GRADE 2-5 PLAYScape UPGRADE NOT TO EXCEED \$95,000 AND TO BRING IT TO THE NEXT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING ON JUNE 5, 2023 FOR APPROVAL.

► **Possible Realized Savings**

Should the district have a balance remaining at the end of the fiscal year, it is proposed that realized savings remain similar to prior years.

- Dime Oil—Bus Fuel \$140,488
- Legal Fees \$ 50,000
- Turf Field \$ 50,000

CONSENSUS: THIS WILL ALSO BE BROUGHT TO THE JUNE 5TH BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING FOR APPROVAL.

► **ESSER Grant Update**

ESSER II and II (ARP) Project Update:

As of June 1, 2023, \$3,608,711 has been spent and \$1,468,692 remains from ESSER II and III. Positions funded by ESSER were detailed during the budget process. Larger projects are individually approved by the Board, and all projects are periodically reviewed.

ESSER I and II Project Update:

From March through May, \$607,535 of ESSER Projects were completed and paid for. \$254,847, 42% of the spending was for MSP and Linden displays in order to reduce the district's capital request funded by the Town Budget. These items make sense for ESSER as they are infrequently replaced compared to other technology in the rotational plan.

Facilities Projects are grouped by season (Fall, Winter, Spring/Summer) and total \$189,878 during this time period. Projects approved from longer lists are carefully considering all needs across the district. Some of these costs were based on our best estimate at the time. Since the list was developed, it was decided to hold

for now on the pool area bleachers and painting, and instead replace valves for \$34,141 that need immediate attention.

All ESSER II and III project spending to date is \$1,818,003. This does not include positions that are charged to ESSER, nor planned cost yet incurred.

► **Middle School Project update**

In coordination with the town, we have reached out to two education planners (Architects) requesting a proposal for a Demographic Study as well as a “Test of Concept” of reconfiguration options available to Plainville and as compared to the existing options:

- 1) Renovate Like New Local Share Est. \$24,399,621
- 2) Maintenance Plan Local Share Est. \$29,264,103

The Test of Concept is a preliminary step prior to the Facility Study to assess what options are even feasible given our current situation and constraints. It could conceivably be completed during the Summer with a report and workshop held just after the return to school.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RACHEL BUCHANAN TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LORI CONSALVO. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Respectively Submitted:



Joan Calistro
Recorder of Minutes