

MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
August 24, 2015

Mrs. Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Rocky Point High School.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Susan Sullivan, President
Scott Reh, Vice President
Melissa Brown, Trustee
Sean Callahan, Trustee
Edward Casswell, Trustee

Also Present: Michael F. Ring, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Deborah De Luca, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent
Susan Wilson, Executive Director for Educational Services
Gregory Hilton, School Business Official
John A. Grillo, Architect, JAG Architects
Patricia Jones, District Clerk

Absent: None

Mrs. Sullivan welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. Mrs. Sullivan explained that the Board of Education scheduled this meeting for the purpose of further discussion and review of a proposed Facilities Capital Project and associated Bond Referendum. With the Capital Projects List projected on a large screen above the stage in order to allow those in attendance to follow along, Mrs. Sullivan advised that the trustees would review and deliberate on proposed changes, deletions and/or additions to the proposed project list. Following the review, Mrs. Sullivan advised that the Board of Education would then discuss options to proceed. Mrs. Sullivan asked for patience from meeting attendees as the Board discussed and deliberated various options and she assured meeting attendees that they would have the opportunity to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting.

- Throughout the PowerPoint presentation various classifications of projects were discussed. These classifications included Priority I and Priority II capital projects; those projects currently under review at the request of a trustee(s); modified projects at the request of a trustee(s); and new projects for consideration at the request of a trustee(s).
- Upon completion of the extensive reviews and discussions, particular items were either removed, modified or reassigned from Priority I to Priority II status or Priority II to Priority I status.

Mrs. Sullivan thanked the trustees for their input and both Dr. Ring and Mr. Grillo for their responses on matters requiring additional information and expertise.

Mrs. Sullivan opened the floor to public comment.

- Ernestine Franco thanked the trustees for removing those items that were deemed to be unnecessary at this time. Ms. Franco expressed her opinion that the cost associated with the proposed air conditioning of the HS auditorium did not warrant the expense. Ms. Franco expressed her initial disagreement with the building of outside bathrooms, however, following a discussion with Mr. Reh wherein Mr. Reh presented the ultimate benefits the installation of outside bathrooms would provide, Ms. Franco expressed her support of this project. Citing the district's responsibility to teach students to be environmentally conscious, Ms. Franco adamantly expressed her disagreement with the installation of synthetic/artificial turf on fields.
- Mrs. Hegggers shared information concerning her knowledge that surrounding school districts with air conditioned auditoriums rent their facilities out to local dance schools for usage during dance recitals. Mrs. Hegggers suggested that this option might be a good resource for the district to assist in recouping the costs to have the HS auditorium air conditioned.
- Dr. Pinkenburg thanked the district for posting the PowerPoint presentation on the website. Dr. Pinkenburg referenced overheated classrooms and suggested that the district consider air conditioning classrooms before spending the money on air conditioning for the auditorium. Dr. Pinkenburg inquired if the relocation of the music room from the basement in JAE to the first floor might negatively impact the learning of surrounding students, i.e., increased levels of noise in the academic setting. Referencing the line item of the conversion of HS library space to accommodate an office, Dr. Pinkenburg asked who would be using the office. Mrs. Sullivan explained that currently three disciplines utilize a small area within the athletic office. Mr. Reh further advised that parents and students presently meet with the Athletic Director in this area and that the current logistics are not conducive to the discussion of confidential matters.
- Dr. Pinkenburg inquired about paving at JAE and asked why this item was listed as a Priority II item when paving at other schools was designated as Priority I. The board members thanked Dr. Pinkenburg for bringing this to their attention and agreed it should be a Priority I item. Additionally, Dr. Pinkenburg asked if the referenced masonry repairs could be addressed on the building level and thus be taken care of as soon as possible as opposed to designation as a capital improvements project with a possible wait time of two years. Mr. Grillo advised he would look into this recommendation.
- Dr. Pinkenburg shared his concerns with the installation of outside bathrooms and the district's ability to provide security and/or monitor students while using these facilities. Mr. Callahan advised that it was not the district's goal to track student bathroom usage as is done in the buildings during a normal school day but that it was the district's goal to limit access to the buildings after school hours.
- Mr. Joe Nowaski spoke about the possibility of utilizing a pre-existing bathroom rough-in in the buildings and grounds maintenance building to build a handicapped-accessible restroom. Mr. Nowaski advised that all that was missing was cesspools. Mr. Nowaski also offered the possibility of having unisex restrooms in lieu of gender-specific restrooms. Mr. Nowaski shared his opinion that there was a need for exterior masonry work to commence as soon as possible and he stressed the importance of having the overgrowth of trees and all landscaping, in general, addressed as current conditions may pose a security risk for the district.

- Mrs. Farley spoke in general regarding the high expenses connected with upgrading/renovating district-wide bathrooms. Mr. Grillo responded in detail Mrs. Farley's questions and concerns and outlined the planned additions of field bathrooms, number of stalls and the benefits of cost-saving septic tanks.
- Mrs. Villafane-Kaplan inquired about the addition of hand washing sinks in cafeterias. Mrs. Villafane-Kaplan shared her opinion that the installation of only one sink of this nature is insufficient. Mrs. Sullivan said the trustees would look into installing additional nozzles to the sink so that several students could utilize the sink simultaneously. Mrs. Villafane-Kaplan asked if the district could provide HandiWipes dispensers immediately for students at FJC so that students could be sure to disinfect their hands at various intervals during the day.
- Dr. Pinkenburg engaged the trustees in conversation regarding plans for the outside bathrooms, storage and the relocation of the athletic trainer's room. Mr. Reh advised that the current bins and containers house lawnmowers, paint cans, landscaping equipment, etc. and are not conducive to storing athletic equipment.
- Mrs. Veronica Gilbert inquired as to where athletic uniforms were stored and was advised the uniforms are stored in the basement of the middle school.
- Mrs. Jennifer Kimball asked if the district could look into the possible installation of additional tennis courts. Mrs. Kimball explained that other districts have quite a few more tennis courts compared to the four courts at Rocky Point, and, as a result, the playing time required for tennis matches at Rocky Point is more extensive in comparison to other districts.
- Mrs. Farley inquired about the projected timeline for the possible Capital Projects-Bond Referendum vote. Mrs. Sullivan responded that the trustees were considering having the special vote prior to the end of the calendar year. Citing the wastefulness of the additional funds needed to be expended by the district to conduct a special vote, Mrs. Farley asked why the proposed vote could not wait and be incorporated with the annual school budget vote/election scheduled in May 2016. Mr. Callahan explained that the state requires eight to nine months to approve the required paperwork for such referendums and the district would lose a great deal of time in beginning the projects. Mrs. Sullivan suggested that the extra costs associated with an additional vote would be less than and surely offset the increased prices in labor and materials if the district waited until May 2016.
- Ms. Franco requested an overview of the procedures the district would need to implement if a successful vote was achieved. Mr. Grillo explained in detail the various bidding processes and the required paperwork the district would need to submit to the state for the state's final approval.
- Mr. Reh thanked meeting attendees for their comments and suggestions. Referencing Mrs. Kimball's comments about the need for additional tennis courts, Mr. Reh said this was the first time the board was learning of this need. Mr. Reh said that the board would work with Mr. Grillo to get pricing information for tennis court additions.

Mrs. Sullivan offered a final recap of the items discussed by the trustees during the meeting; those items that would remain on the list and those items that would be removed from the list. Noting that there were still a few items that needed to be addressed and/or readdressed, Mrs. Sullivan stated that she hoped the Board would be able to move forward to the next step at the next scheduled Board of Education meeting, Monday,

August 31, 2015. Mrs. Sullivan thanked everyone for their thoughtful inputs and contributions to the discussion.

There was no further discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:15 p.m. Sean Callahan made a motion and Melissa Brown seconded to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jones
District Clerk