

## Special Board Meeting October 24, 2023

2930

The Lowellville Board of Education met in special session on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 in the Lowellville Cafeteria; President Joseph Sturm presiding. Mr. Sturm called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Joseph Sturm – Present  
Jennifer Johnson- Present  
Gerald Dubos- Present  
Brian Wharry-Present  
Stephanie Yon- Present

### WORK SESSION:

- Permanent Improvements Update
- Potential Permanent Improvement and Capital Projects Update

#### Discussion amongst Board:

- Mr. Sturm- Welcome
- Mr. Karlovic- Provided an overview of the district's permanent improvement levy approved in 2022- How much it generates- an explanation of what you can use PI funds on (HVAC, roof, bus, 5 year lifespan, etc.) and what you can not use the PI funds on (not allowed to use on salaries and benefits, custodial staff, etc). He also noted that districts do not always have capital improvement plans and reminded the group that you can only band-aid items for so long before they will need to be replaced.
- Mr. Karlovic outlined the items that have been replaced thus far with the PI funds. Total costs thus far are: \$133, 756.77

| VENDOR                      | ITEM                                                                                                                       | COST        |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Northern Buckeye            | Erate discount applied- wifi access points                                                                                 | \$4,670.62  |
| Dennis Mikkelsen Plumbing   | Tankless Hot Water Tank for Elementary Wing                                                                                | \$14,750.00 |
| Media Obsessions            | ½ down for new PA and Bell system                                                                                          | \$5,782.50  |
| Data Com                    | Remaining cost of security cameras upgraded on campus- others were paid by safety grant                                    | \$14,561.18 |
| Myers Equipment Corporation | Remaining Costs for School Bus w/ Wheelchair Lift                                                                          | \$35,070.81 |
| Farnham Equipment Company   | New bleachers for section "S" in gym- all handrails replaced in large gym                                                  | \$12,686.00 |
| Huntington Bank (Lowes)     | New Ice Machine for Weight Room/Locker Room                                                                                | \$2,418.19  |
| Fast Signs                  | Remaining PBIS signage in building                                                                                         | \$8,860.97  |
| Notareschi Interiors Inc    | New roof on visitors press box, windows on ticket booths, painting inside of pres and ticket booths, new door ticket booth | \$8,340.00  |
| Asphalt Solutions           | Parking Lots crack filled, sealed, striped                                                                                 | \$14,997.00 |

|                  |                                             |            |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------|
| Media Obsessions | Remaining ½ paid for new PA and Bell system | \$5,782.50 |
| Johnson Controls | Motor for air handler 2 return fan          | \$5,837.00 |

#### MISSION

The Lowellville Local School District will educate, empower and challenge our students to reach their individual potentials by providing an environment where tradition, community and excellence create productive members of a global society.

- Mr. Karlovic stated how important it is to be transparent with and seek input from the community regarding PI purchases. He reminded the audience how important it is to never use PI funds to pay for salaries or fringe benefits.
- Mr. Dubos asked if we only paid \$30,000 for the new bus. Mr. Karlovic clarified that the district had money set aside for the new bus so they used that money first and then paid the remaining balance with the PI funds.
- Mrs. Johnson asked if the PI funds would replenish some of the building funds that we had. Mr. Karlovic explained that the district had money set aside for different projects such as buses, roofs, etc.
- Mr. Karlovic and Mrs. Sawicki reviewed a list of items that will need to be completed soon as well as a wish list of items that the district would like to consider.
  - Roof on elementary wing needs to be replaced- original roof
    - Other portions of the building have had the roof replaced over the years
    - Roof replacement can be done in phases
  - HVAC system will need to be upgraded- for the most part it is the original system.
    - As fans, motors, etc break they are replaced
    - Control panel was upgraded
    - Probably about \$250,000 to upgrade
  - Servers and Switches will need to continuously be upgraded as they reach their end of life
  - Chillers and Boilers- original units- getting to the point to where they will need replaced
  - Basketball Courts will need sanded and repainted- about \$30,000-\$50,000
  - Track needs replaced- probably about \$250,000
  - Sidewalks around entire campus- need to be fixed- several large cracks, uneven, ADA compliant crosswalks
    - Can be done in phases
    - Can try to lift some of the sidewalks to correct the areas where they have fallen
- Wish List Conversation- 6:15 p.m.
  - Athletic complex facilities- they schools we compete against have much better facilities
  - Softball fields need upgraded- Village owns them- safety issue at this point
  - At the football field: Track needs replaced, stands are heaving in on visitor side, stands are small-not a lot of seating which can cause loss of revenue in ticket sales, visitor fans filter to home side, band shell to cover band members
  - Reconfiguration of main office area
- The above list of PI projects will cost way more than the PI funds the district will receive. The district has the ability to finance the projects in order to get them completed quicker. It's cheaper to finance now because our investment rates are high and we can use the money to pay for the financing.
- Mr. Sturm asked if you can use the PI funds to pay for the loan payment. Mr. Karlovic said, "yes".
- Mr. Wharry clarified that we would use all of the PI funds for the "needs" and still move forward with some of the wish list improvements.
- Mr. Karlovic stated that PI funds should be used to assist all areas of the campus.
- Mrs. Johnson asked if we pursued the softball fields could they also play on the football field. She stated the football field could be used for other things.
- Mr. Wharry stated that students can't practice if the fields aren't available. He stated that a turf field would provide value for all students (football, gym, softball, little leagues, band, etc).
- Mrs. Johnson asked how private funding impacts capital projects. She asked if the district can do some type of fundraising. Mr. Karlovic stated that you can, to a degree, but it's often frowned upon. There are

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ways to name fields, locker rooms, etc. Mrs. Johnson clarified her question by asking if the district could receive large donations every 25-30 years if it made sense for a large project.

- Perhaps the Athletic Boosters and Crescendo Club have the ability to create or donate something to benefit the stakeholders.
- Mr. Karlovic stated that you have to have drawings and be able to tell a compelling story if you are seeking a large donation.
- Mr. Karlovic commented on athletic booster clubs. He stated that in many districts the boosters say that the school is responsible for providing items to the students. Mr. Karlovic believes the purpose of the boosters is to “boost” the opportunities for the students so if they have the money they should use it for all students because that is why they exist.
- Mr. Karlovic stated that the district may want to consider reaching out to a few alumni and businesses and ask them for donations to offset cost (if we had drawings and plans created).
- Mr. Sturm stated that we need to reach out to the Village to discuss when and how they plan to fix the softball fields because they need to be fixed ASAP.
- Mrs. Yon commented on how many students practice or play on the softball and pony fields (band, football, little leagues, etc)
- Mr. Wharry clarified that the softball fields do not have to have turf but they need to have drainage upgrades, dugouts need to be replaced, etc.
- Mrs. Yon summarized the needs discussed previously in the meeting.
- Mr. Karlovic stated that part of the next steps are to put actual dollar amounts to these projects because it is hard to guess about the costs which can lead to underestimating the totals. We need to talk about phasing in roof and HVAC replacements ASAP. There are plenty of vendors that will come to give estimates.
- Mrs. Sawicki shared the desire (down the road) to enhance the inside of the building by adding wall wraps that feature the athletics, academics, and village. She also explained the need to replace the water reel for the football field in the next year (\$15,000-\$36,000). If turf is purchased, the water reel will not be needed.
- Mrs. Johnson said that businesses find it more appealing to donate \$5,000 a year over so many years rather than providing one lump sum.
- Mr. Dubos asked what the OFCC said needed to be done (must do, nice to do, wish list).
- Mrs. Sawicki stated that the OFCC reminded the district that almost everything is in its original state at this time and that regular replacement schedules should be planned for.
- Mr. Dubos reminded the group that the HVAC software did not work last year and the district moved forward with replacing it. We can’t keep putting a band-aid on items and I believe the HVAC should be upgraded now.
- Mr. Sturm commented that this evening’s work session was a good start and an opportunity to provide feedback and to prioritize items and the timing of when improvements can be made. It takes time to get materials in and some projects may not be able to be completed with students and staff in the building.
- Mr. Karlovic stated that the district has about \$521,000 set aside in the 070 fund and about \$300,000 set aside for roof replacements.
- Mr. Karlovic stated that we have funds available at this time to begin some of these projects. The funds are there and we should begin to move forward so that we do not have issues that could have been prevented.
- Mrs. Yon stated that it is nice that we are planning now so that we have time to plan schedules appropriately so that schedules can continue and academics and athletics are not interrupted.

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- Mrs. Sawicki asked the five audience members to complete a survey before they left. The survey asks community members to prioritize the items being upgraded as a low, medium, or high priority.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

1. Public comment on agenda items or other school related issues.

Discussion began at 6:46 p.m.

- Kimberly McGinnis- Asked if the PI funds we discussed tonight could be used for adding wraps to the interior doors of the classrooms. She stated that when she subs the teachers have paper or fabric covering the interior door windows and you may be able to still see in. (Yes- PI funds can be used for adding the wraps to these interior door windows). She also stated that subs can not get in the building or communicate if they are outside for recess (Mrs. Sawicki shared the safety protocols in place for all staff and subs and shared that everyone has a walkie talkie to communicate. The district will remind staff to alert subs of the protocols).
- John Messer- Stated that he is involved with a lot of youth sports and it would be nice to have a nice complex. However, he is not a turf guy and likes grass more than turf. With that being said, turf would be nice for all sports as everyone could practice on it.
- Chrissy Calderone- Teaches in Austintown and stated that they take their students outside for field days and use the turf. She asked what the technology items on the list meant (Mr. Karlovic explained about the servers, switches, etc).

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**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS (BOARD POLICY: KD)**

In order for the Board to fulfill its obligation to complete the planned agenda in an effective and efficient fashion, a maximum of 30 minutes of public participation may be permitted at each meeting. Each person addressing the Board shall give his/her name and address. If several people wish to speak, each person is allotted three minutes until the total time of 30 minutes is used. At the discretion of the Board President, the time limit may be extended to five minutes. During that period, no person may speak twice until all who desire to speak have had the opportunity to do so. Persons desiring more time should follow the procedure of calling the Board office to request to be placed on the regular agenda at the Superintendent's discretion. The period of public participation may be extended by a vote of the majority of the Board, present and voting.

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(23-10-8520)

## 2. Adjournment:

Moved by **Brian Wharry**, seconded by **Jennifer Johnson** to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 pm.

ROLL CALL: Wharry - Yon - Dubos - Johnson - Sturm- All Aye  
Joe Sturm declared the motion carried 5-0.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Treasurer

11/15/23  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

11/15/23  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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