

**OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES**

**March 28, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.
Hybrid**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Frances-Feliz Kearns, April Nye and Joseph Pires (all remote).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools and Howard Barber, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations.

Meeting called to order at 12:04 p.m. by Ms. Nye.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:

Superintendent Nelson reminded the school committee members that the current debt is set to expire next fiscal year and in order to have a seamless transition from the current debt to new debt approval would need to take place this evening at the ORR School Committee to allow the proper steps to take place in each Town. Mr Barber explained that if the current debt expires and we do not have new debt in place, the Towns could take on other bonds for other needs. Superintendent Nelson recommended the debt authorization approval be proposed, and allow each Town to be able to review and vote as they see fit.

Superintendent Nelson confirmed the next steps if the subcommittee agrees, the ORR School Committee would vote this evening to authorize the school with moving forward to secure new long-term debt. Then if approved, inform the Towns within seven days. The Towns add the article to their warrant. If all three Towns approve it at their Town meeting, it will then be placed on the ballot for vote. Mr. Barber confirmed the amount would be \$12,000,000. Superintendent Nelson expressed the focus would be projects for items at or past their life expectancy at this time. There are no bells and whistles or extravagant projects, it is for HVAC, security, PA system, etc. They are not considering anything that would potentially need to come down in the next 10-20 years if a new building is in the works.

Superintendent Nelson shared the language from the bond company's legal counsel for the votes this evening by the school committee, the potential article, motion and ballot question for the Towns.

School Committee feedback:

Ms. Nye confirmed the \$12,000,000 was the amount. She expressed concerns that if this was not approved, how the towns would be able to absorb costs in the event the HVAC system stopped working or other items that are at or past their life expectancy already would be handled.

Ms. Kearns expressed that she has already been discussing this with constituents to inform the community of the necessity of moving it forward.

Mr. Pires explained that sharing the information with taxpayers is important to convey this is funds to maintain the building over the next ten years in the event of an equipment failure and to improve the security of the buildings.

Motion by Ms. Nye to bring forward the vote of \$12,000,000 as discussed to the ORR School Committee meeting tonight

Seconded by Ms. Kearns

Roll call: Nye (yes), Kearns (yes), Pires (yes)

Motion Carried 3-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:04 p.m.
Motion by Ms. Nye to adjourn the meeting
Seconded by Ms. Kearns
Motion Carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. Nelson".

Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools