

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

**March 12, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.  
Hybrid**

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

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:** Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools (in-person) and Howard Barber, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations (in-person).

Meeting called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Ms. Nye.

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:**

Superintendent Nelson welcomed the subcommittee members and shared with the school committee proposed language should they recommend moving forward with new debt in the future, which would then be voted on by the ORR School Committee to move forward to the Towns. The language was developed by the bond company's legal counsel and then reviewed by the District's legal counsel as well. Next, Superintendent Nelson shared the Facilities Conditions Assessment tier 1 recommendations from LeftField, the company the District commissioned to perform a comprehensive building assessment of the Junior and Senior High Schools.

Mr. Barber reviewed many of the tier 1 recommendations from LeftField including projects with the HVAC system, exterior entry doors, the PA system, the gymnasium, hot water heaters and pump systems, paving and curbing upgrades and more. Mr. Barber continued to explain the additional costs associated with any of the projects bonds, insurances, permits, etc. Superintendent Nelson informed the school committee that the entire assessment returned a proposition of over \$60 million in projects. However, since that is not feasible fiscally or given the age of the building, the administration has been looking at \$12-15 million to stay in line with the current debt amount the Towns experience if the subcommittee ultimately decides to move forward.

**School Committee Feedback:**

Mr. Pires said that of course, no one wants their taxes to increase, but he believes everything in tier 1 is justifiable especially the projects related to the HVAC system due to air quality and efficiency. Ms. Nye inquired about an irrigation system and elevator improvements, which had been discussed previously. Mr. Barber explained those would be supplemental projects. Ms. Kearns said she is in support of this and the biggest question will be the impact on taxes. The members agreed to meet on Monday for a tour of some of the items on the list with Mr. Barber.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

Motion by Ms. Kearns to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by Mr. Pires.

Roll Call: Nye (yes); Pires (yes); Kearns (yes)

Motion Carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools