

NORTHBROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT 28
BOARD of EDUCATION
COMMITTEE of the WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
HELD TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2024

A Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of Education, District 28, Cook County, Illinois, was held in the HOH Conference Room, 1475 Maple Ave., Northbrook, IL, in said district on Tuesday, June 25, 2024.

The meeting was called to order by Board President Gallinson at 5:10 p.m., with the following members present:

Present:	DeShawn Arms	Beth Bazer
	Christine Beeftink	Matt Cassidy
	Jennifer Gallinson	Mara Silver-Schack
	Adam Weinstock	

Absent: None

Also present were Dr. Jason Pearson, Superintendent; Dr. Kris Raitzer, Assistant Superintendent; Jessica Donato, Chief School Business Official; Edward Brophy, Director of Human Resources and Administrative Services; Michelle Jackson, Director of Learning; Terry Ryan, Communications Director; Dr. Kelly Sculles, Director of Student Services; Joel Gallegos, Director of Buildings and Grounds and Chrissy Yonaites, Recording Secretary.

Facility Master Plan

Dr. Pearson, Superintendent, noted that the purpose of the meeting was to review the Facilities Master Plan and the analysis completed by the Buildings and Grounds Committee. The committee has reviewed plan, identified high-priority projects, potential funding options and a communications plan. All of the information provided is a starting point for discussion and not a recommendation.

Dr. Pearson stated that from the original \$80 million of work listed in the facility plan, \$20 million of high-priority projects can be funded over 10 years with district reserves and projects totaling \$4 million could be delayed or completed with maintenance staff. A total of \$56 million in proposed renovations, repairs and improvements is unfunded. The schools are all 60-70 years old, requiring bigger renovation projects that the operating budget can fund. He reviewed each school and the highest priorities.

Jessica Donato, Chief School Business Official explained potential revenue sources. Due to limitations under the Property Tax Extension Limitation (PTEL) law, District 28 does not have the ability to borrow money to make major building repairs or improvements without voter approval.

The board discussed the concept of the referendum and what that could look like.

Dr. Pearson offered some potential options that have been discussed with the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

First 2 options -no additional revenue

Option 1- Complete \$20 million of high-priority projects. Complete additional projects from the list as funds become available through the budgeting process.

Option 2- In addition to option 1, use a larger percentage of the fund balance to complete additional projects as the budget and fund balance allow.

Next 2 options- Additional revenue options

Option 3 - In addition to option 1, seek voter approval via referendum to issue \$30 million in bonds to complete prioritized projects identified through community engagement.

Option 4- In addition to option 1, seek voter approval via referendum to issue \$60 million in bonds to complete the full facility master plan recommendations.

Terry Ryan, Communications Director, presented an outline of a communications action plan. She referenced the recent environmental scan. The results indicated that our buildings are seen as a weakness and there are concerns for safety and lack of space. Key message is that our buildings are old and require updating.

Ms. Ryan showed a potential communications plan from July 1- November 1. She recommends reaching out to the community to evaluate the response of a possible referendum and what dollar amount would be well received. The district can only inform the community where and how the money would be used. The board talked about ways to show the community the purpose of the referendum.

Ms. Donato will also create a detailed analysis of how a referendum would impact a homeowner's property taxes using varying referendum amounts against different house values. Additionally, Dr. Pearson will inform our counsel that a referendum is under consideration.

At 6:36 p.m, it was moved by Member Cassidy and seconded by Member Weinstock that the Board of Education adjourn.

All members present voted Aye. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Beth Bazer, Secretary

Jennifer Gallinson, President