

The Facilities Subcommittee met on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, in the Virtual Zoom Meeting. Present were Mike Judge, Jennifer Cullum, Sara Ahern, Chris Dwelley, Derek Osterman, Sandy Gifford, Kevin Maxim, and Jen Kruczek. Pat Murphy and Paul Hilton were also there.

Mr. Judge called the meeting to order at 8:01AM.

### **Approve Meeting Minutes**

- Motion by Ms. Cullum, seconded by Dr. Ahern, and the Committee voted, unanimously, to approve the Meeting Minutes of April 25, 2024.

### **Osterville Elementary School Discussion**

- Dr. Ahern stated she along with Mr. Osterman, Mr. Maxim, Ms. Gifford, and Kristen Harmon met to discuss taking back the Osterville school and what that would look like. She did call Paul Hilton at the Cape Cod Collaborative and met with him last week.
- Her presentation today is on short term space options. She will discuss the condition of the Osterville School, possible configurations, and the costs.
- Mr. Maxim spoke about the conditions of the Osterville School. It is clean, well kept, and has a new playground. It has deferred maintenance.
- Dr. Ahern stated it is consistent with the older elementary schools in the district.
- Dr. Ahern discussed the estimated utility cost.
- Dr. Ahern discussed the process of taking back the Osterville School. The district needs to give the Collaborative 365 days' notice. She spoke about the lease terms and pay back for improvements on a depreciated basis. There are consequences for the Collaborative. They would need a new facility. If it were to fold, the liabilities and assets are shared across districts. Barnstable has 10 BPS students enrolled at the STAR program.

### **Possible PreK-3 School Scenarios**

- Dr. Ahern discussed if the Osterville School was to house the PreK program. The positive considerations: centrally located, serve a growing population of PreK students (there are 44 children being evaluated currently and the program will be full this summer), less disruption since they are new to school, opens up space at HyWest, and the School Committee could consider tuition for peer model students. The challenges include accessibility of the front entrance, bathroom accessibility, not PreK fixtures, and the interior doors are not converted to ADA level doors.
- Dr. Ahern spoke about PreK operations including the administrator, secretary, and nurse would move over. The district would need to hire additional classroom teachers, paraprofessionals, and custodians.
- Dr. Ahern discussed if the Osterville School were to be a K-3 school. This would involve a redistrict analysis. The school could have two sections per grade with some specialized program space or three sections with limited specialized programs. She spoke about collapsing sections in other schools. She would use previous boundaries as a starting point and tweak based on numbers. Classroom teachers would follow students to the new building. The challenges include accessibility of the front entrance and bathroom accessibility.
- Ms. Gifford stated a K-3 school would be a larger redistricting project. This could help with other school's space issues. If it is a PreK school, this would help with all elementary schools with minor redistricting.
- Mr. Judge asked about redistricting. Ms. Gifford stated she would look at the lines they had when Osterville was a district school and look at the numbers.
- Ms. Cullum asked if the district is taking the portables into account that have not been set up yet. Dr. Ahern stated yes and the usage of them could be tweaked a little. Mr. Maxim stated the portables will be completed this summer and be ready for the opening of school in the Fall.
- Dr. Ahern stated there are cost implications in taking back the Osterville School including reimbursements to the Cape Cod Collaborative, staffing, furniture, utility cost, facilities improvement, moving costs, and special education tuition costs.
- Mr. Dwelley stated it is important to understand what the total cost would be. If state aid stays the same, it will be a tough FY26.
- Dr. Ahern discussed additional options:

- Portables from Nauset may be available. She is going to speak with the Superintendent in Nauset about it.
- Do not take back the Osterville School or add portable, but rather redistrict and maximize class sizes. She spoke about the Innovation School coming up for renewal this year.
- Ms. Cullum asked, with the extra portables, if the district can get a library for HyWest. Dr. Ahern needs to speak to the Superintendent in Nauset. They could use a portable for a library at HyWest. She would put portables at BWB. There is room at Centerville, so they could redistrict from WVE to Centerville.
- Mr. Judge asked about the cost of the used portables. Mr. Osterman stated he would need to look at them. Dr. Ahern stated they would also need to do site work.
- Dr. Ahern asked about the timeframe of a building project and if there is any way to accelerate that process.
- Mr. Osterman spoke about doing the feasibility and funding before being accepted into the program. That might help move the timeline up.
- Ms. Cullum asked if debt exclusions do better during national election years or mid-terms. Mr. Osterman stated it depends on the community if you want a general election or a mid-term election.
- Ms. Cullum stated she prefers buildings to portables.
- Mr. Judge stated the Subcommittee will have a meeting in two weeks. He wants to see what the portables are going to cost and what taking back the Osterville School is going to cost. He agrees that having a building is better than portables.
- Mr. Judge asked Mr. Maxim to have what the Osterville facility updates needed are and estimated costs.

#### **Next Steps**

- Ms. Cullum stated at the next meeting, she would like to discuss a timeline for the debt exclusion vote.
- The next meeting will be May 31 at 8:00AM.

Motion by Ms. Cullum, seconded by Dr. Ahern, and the Committee voted, unanimously, to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Kruczek  
Executive Assistant