



Board of School Directors Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

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Members present: Nicholas Braccio, William Brong, Janet Flisak, Andrew Landis, Ken Keith, Stephen Nelson, William Formica, Kimberly Wheeler, Michael Barnacz

Others present: Frank Ball, Elisa Ball, Bill Bamber (Field Turf), Andrew O'Connell (Musco Lighting), Jamie Doyle (PFM Financial Advisors), Frank Gallagher, Christopher Hey, Katie Kennedy-Reilly, Michael Taylor and Megan Zweiback

1. Finance Committee

1.1 Financing Discussion - Upcoming Capital Projects

Mr. Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Mr. Nelson called for a moment of silence to honor September 11th, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Nelson announced that Ms. Jamie Doyle of PFM Financial Management was in attendance this evening to talk about the funding that the school district needs to do over the next three to four years for the projects that have been in discussion.

Director of Business Affairs, Mr. Taylor stated that this is a follow-up to the presentation from April where debt-service was discussed. Mr. Taylor stated that typically school district have a debt-service percentage of their operating budget between 8-12%. Mr. Taylor stated that the Souderton Area School District will remain in the low 7% range for its debt-service, even with the proposed borrowing.

Mr. Taylor stated that Ms. Doyle would be presenting borrowing information as it relates to the proposed projects at Indian Crest, Salford Hills and West Broad Street and the proposed turf fields at the high school. He noted that it takes several months to set the stage for borrowing and while there is time for the Board to make adjustments as necessary, it is important to begin the overview. Mr. Taylor introduced Ms. Doyle.

Ms. Doyle reviewed a presentation and indicated that the district was enjoying an inverted yield curve, meaning the best of both world's for earning interest on its investments and for borrowing. Ms. Doyle indicated that there is potential for change as the Federal Reserve is anticipated to act next week and borrowing rates could go down as well as investing rates.

Ms. Doyle explained the borrowing process and guidelines for the borrowing. A Projected Timeline slide was presented indicating that the early expectations for Bond issuances in January 2025, noting that there is time to refine the specifics between now and the actual borrowing in January.

Mr. Taylor indicated that the borrowing could be less if the estimates and bids are less than what is currently being projected for the proposed renovations.

Mr. Nelson thanked Mr. Taylor for the presentation and stated that while no one likes to borrow money, it is an important process in keeping facilities in good standing.

Mrs. Flisak questioned the borrowing and investing best case scenario. Ms. Doyle noted that there is a positive factor for investing at this time and Mr. Nelson added that significant work and relationships with current financial institutions are allowing us to maintain the interest earnings. Ms. Flisak commented on favorable timing.

Mr. Brong expressed concern about future HVAC needs. Mr. Taylor responded that the school district is working with its roofing and HVAC consultants to identify what buildings are likely to need those upgrades. Those items are included in the five-year forecasting.

Mr. Barnacz asked about the time line and Ms. Doyle responded that from the bond issuance it is approximately 35 days to proposed settlement.

Mr. Landis praised the work and importance of managing the debt service.

Ms. Wheeler asked if there was any impact of Federal Reserve action and Ms. Doyle responded that our proposed borrowing would be updated accordingly.

Mr. Braccio thanked MS. Doyle for a positive proposal.

The Committee agreed to move forward for Board Action.

Mr. Nelson adjourned the Finance Committee Meeting at 6:55 P.M.

2. Operations Committee

2.1 Multi-purpose Field Proposal

Mr. Brong called the Operations Committee Meeting to order at 6:56 P.M.

Mr. Taylor introduced Bill Bamber from Field Turf and Andrew O'Connell from Musco Lighting.

Mr. Bamber gave a brief company overview of Field Turf noting that he had worked on the replacement of the existing field turf at the high school. He cited several area softball and baseball projects that the company had completed. He stated that Field Turf operations offer local service including a dedicated project manager. He spoke to the quality of their manufactured product and its durability.

A slide showing the proposed project site plan was shared and a proposal of costs were shared to the screen. Mr. Bamber stated that the Field Turf pricing is based upon the Keystone Purchasing Network and encompasses everything with the exception of the lighting. It includes everything from excavation, fencing, dugouts, the synthetic turf, any amenities, and walkway passages from parking lot to the fields.

Mr. O'Connell introduced himself the representative from Musco Lighting, noting that he lives locally in Delaware County. He also noted that he has worked alongside of Field Turf for several years.

Mr. O'Connell spoke to the advanced technology available in outdoor lighting, as well as lighting spillage and glare. He addressed concerns that keeps lighting focused on student athletes and the field and the elimination of spillage and glare. Mr. O'Connell also spoke of Musco's use of LED lighting for optimal efficiency and energy savings, as well as the ability to dim fixture lighting, as needed.

Mr. Braccio and Mr. Brong expressed concerns for the excavation and installation of the lighting poles. Mr. Brong asked about a rock clause and Mr. O'Connell responded that it is not his experience that a rock clause would be necessary.

Estimates were requested for potential drilling costs in the event of rock. Mr. Taylor requested a worse case scenario of potential excavation for lighting poles.

Mr. Braccio also inquired about the warranty on the lighting fixtures. Mr. O'Connell explained the coverages of the lighting plan as well as the new electric service that will be provided to the field.

Mrs. Flisak asked about a timeline and Mr. Taylor responded that upon approvals, shovels could be in the ground in early October and the fields could be ready for spring sports.

A brief discussion occurred about the safety of lighting as it pertains to student athlete safety. Mr. O'Connell spoke to the type of lighting that does not impede athlete performance.

Mrs. Wheeler expressed concerns for student athletic safety playing on turf fields. Mr. Bamber responded that safety data can be provided.

Dr. Gallagher noted that the synthetic field would be available for use by the marching band as well.

Mr. Taylor reviewed a Next Steps slide, which outlined the request for the Board to move forward for action on the Field Turf and Musco Lighting proposals. Mr. Taylor also noted that the slide presented a calendar of proposed dates on the Indian Crest, Salford Hills and West Broad Street projects.

Approval Schedule	Indian Crest	Salford Hills	West Broad Street
Act 34 Resolution			Sept 26, 2024

Act 34 Hearing			Oct 24, 2024
Committee Review of Bids - Recommendation to Board	Oct 9, 2024	Oct 9, 2024	Dec 11, 2024
School Board Approval of Bids	Oct 24, 2024	Oct 24, 2024	Dec 19, 2024 or Jan 23, 2025
NTP/Contracts/Submittals	Nov 2024 - Jan 2025	Nov 2024 - Jan 2025	Jan - Mar 2025
Mobilize onsite - Fencing / Layout	Jun 16, 2026	Jun 16, 2025	Jun 16, 2025
Start Construction of Addition / Maintain Modular CR's	Summer 2025	Summer 2025	Summer 2025
Project Complete	Summer 2027	Summer 2027	Summer 2027

A member of the public asked about the cost of lighting and Mr. Brong responded that the cost is \$1M.

Several inquiries and responses occurred regarding bleachers and batters box replacements of the turf field and the use of utilities on the fields. A member of the public asked about savings usage and Mr. Taylor noted that there will be no grass maintenance and game preparation will be minimal and somewhat maintenance free.

A member of the public asked about where freshman football will be played as it will no longer be available. Mr. Brong and Dr. Gallagher both noted that other fields on campus are being used. Dr. Gallagher also noted that the addition of a new turf field on the campus will free up space on other fields.

A member of the public asked about field maintenance and it was discussed that there will be limited maintenance on the turf field and no longer will we need to bus student athletes to Harleysville Community Center.

The Committee agreed to move forward for Board Action on September 26th.

Mr. Brong adjourned the Operations Committee meeting at 7:48 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael Taylor, C.P.A.
Board Secretary / Director of Business Affairs