

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

**December 10, 2024 at 3:30 p.m.
Remote (Zoom)**

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools, Howard Barber, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, Eugene Jones, Director of Facilities (all remote).

Meeting called to order at 3:33 p.m. by Ms. Nye.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:

Superintendent Nelson reviewed that at the last meeting the subcommittee supported posting the bid and reconvening to review proposals for the \$750,000 in funds advocated for by Representative Strauss earmarked for the athletic fields, which must be expended by FY2026 as part of the 2022 Economic Development Bill. This bid was public in the central register, the local newspaper and the District website. Mr. Barber explained that fourteen vendors requested bid documents and three participated in a building walk through provided by the District in relation to this project. However, at the closure, no formal bids were submitted. Superintendent Nelson shared with the school committee the proposal from Activitas for athletic field planning services with an estimated total of \$9,250.00. The proposal includes an existing conditions assessment, sports field soil sampling, review of current maintenance practices, meetings to review the requirements of the athletic programs, athletic field renovation options, renovation assessment and preliminary pricing, renovation review meetings and planning with future phases.

School Committee Feedback:

Ms. Kearns asked if there would be anything that would need to be moved based on the project, such as disc golf. Mr. Barber shared that the administration would work with all clubs and activities throughout the process. Ms. Nye inquired about the next steps. Superintendent Nelson explained that the administration can move forward with the consultant proposal. Mr. Barber and Mr. Jones agreed that this was the best first phase of the project, and the District can conduct future bid processes for additional phases of the project. Mr. Pires questioned if the District has worked with this vendor before and the vendor's experience working with schools. Mr. Barber stated that ORR has not worked this vendor, however, the vendor has experience working with schools and he has seen their work at other districts. Mr. Jones confirmed that this vendor is also on the Massachusetts approved vendor bidding list.

Motion by Ms. Kearns to move forward with the proposal from the consultant.

Seconded by Ms. Nye

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

Motion Carried 3-0.

Next, Ms. Nye inquired about next steps of the long-term debt discussion that took place last year but ultimately the debt authorization vote and related article was rescinded/withdrawn from the town meeting warrants in Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester. Superintendent Nelson reminded the subcommittee that the current long-term debt will no longer be part of the ORR budget at the conclusion of this fiscal year and the District must determine how to support the campus moving forward. He shared three possible options; building up the capital stabilization fund that was established as part of the regional agreement, consider when to propose new debt and determine the project size or target small projects one at a time proactively or reactively.

School Committee Feedback:

Ms. Nye shared her preference was to proactively look at the debt authorization again and not wait until something on the campus breaks. Mr. Pires asked for the itemized proposal. Superintendent Nelson shared it and showed the subcommittee where it was posted on the District website, under the Business and Finance page. Ms. Kearns expressed an idea to provide tours for the Select Boards and state representatives. Ms. Nye added that Marion supported this last year. Superintendent Nelson expressed the formula for inflation was included on the original proposal shared last year and the administration can work to update that. He explained ideally, the school committee would be in full agreement, along with the Select Boards and Finance Committees going into Town Meetings in the spring.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Motion by Ms. Nye to adjourn the meeting

Seconded by Ms. Kearns

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

Motion Carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Nelson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools