

The Lowellville Board of Education met in a work session on Monday, March 10, 2025 in the Lowellville Library; President Jennifer Johnson presiding. Mrs. Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Brian Wharry-Present
Stephanie Yon- Present
Gerald Dubos- Present
Jennifer Johnson- Present
Joseph Sturm – Present

1. Work Session:

- Building and Grounds - Project Updates, Maintenance, and Needs
- Building and Grounds- Timeline to Begin Identified Projects
- Building and Grounds- Estimates for Work to be Completed

Discussion:

- Treasurer Andrea Apisa (AA) began by reviewing the 5 year forecast presented in November of 2024 as well as what the projected forecast may look like based off of the preliminary information we have received regarding the new biennial budget from the Governor (the projected budget will impact funding). She informed the Board that all decisions will need to be made with the budgets in mind.
- AA shared that in the Nov. 2024 five year forecast she projected to begin deficit spending in year 5 of the forecast. With the Governor's proposal, AA will be creating a five year forecast that shows deficit spending in year 4 (2028- \$147,670 deficit, 2029-\$895,819).
- AA reported that in FY26, the district is projected to lose \$175,000 in unrestricted aid and \$205,000 in FY27. Then, in FY28 and FY29 it is estimated to lose \$458,000 each year. The Governor's plan is diverting a lot of funds to charter schools and nonpublic schools.
- AA reviewed some of the price estimates for a general idea of what the bleachers at the field, turf, and track would cost. She noted that the track was already formally bid out and the other projects would have to be too if the Board decides to move forward with them.
- AA provided an update of the baseball and softball area and the current easement with the village. She received the easement termination agreement from the attorney in order to take ownership of the fields. When we move forward, it will need to be signed and notarized to prove it is the property of the district. The district will also need to create procedures moving forward for future use of the property and general maintenance and daily upkeep.
- AA informed the Board that she is comfortable with taking out a \$3 million debt issuance. It would be a 30 year loan with a variable rate of about 4.7%. This would require a yearly payment of \$188,141. AA can do a placement for the loan but it would result in higher rates. She prefers to do a public offering circular (POC) because it will give the district a better rate. This is where we would sell our debt to a private firm.
- Jennifer Johnson (JJ) asked what is the largest budget we have for the projects that need done. AA stated that \$3 million is the maximum we have to work with at this time. The levy money would be used for some of the repayment of the loan. The \$3 million debt also leaves the district money for emergencies.
- AA stated that when she completes a POC the private firms want to see projects being done inside the building too in the event we default on the loan, they have something tangible to take ownership of.
- Brian Wharry (BW) asked AA if she would still feel comfortable in the \$3 million debt if the levy does not pass. AA reported that she would not feel as comfortable with the \$3 million debt if the levy does not pass.

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- Levy generates about \$220,000 a year.
- JJ asked if we looked at a \$2 million debt. AA responded yes but the rates are higher.
- There was a general consensus that the Board prioritize the work that needs to be done now and the district can always continue to complete upgrades in future years.
- The track was bid out and the cost came in at \$119,900. There will be a recommendation on the March 19, 2025 board agenda for approval. If approved, the work will begin in the next few months.
- Joe Sturm (JS) gave a brief summary of the notes taken from the building and grounds previous meetings:
 - There was discussion around switching the home and visitor bleachers. After discussing with a contractor the district will not get the most bang for their buck due to some logistics with how much land we have to build.
 - Visitor bleachers need to be repaired. They are in bad shape.
 - Want to add an addition on the home locker room side and make a concession area. Then, extend the visitor locker room into the current concession area.
 - Build a new bleacher set up/stand area for the band. Mr. A has a design he would like to see built.
 - Lighting and electrical upgrades would need to be completed with the construction of new concession areas and the extension of the visitor locker room.
 - Cosmetic work needed for the ticket booths.
 - Baseball and softball field upgrades- drainage, dugouts, concessions
 - Add a large storage shed to the exterior of the school. Jerry Dubos (JD) asked if we can build onto the bus garage.
 - BW asked for clarification if the bleachers would be all new or just adding to them. JS stated that they would all be new. BW asked if we need all new bleaches as we consider other priorities on the list.
 - Press box needs to be fixed. We could add a new one to the home side that would accommodate home and visitor teams.
 - JS informed the Board that he still wants turf and doesn't want to speak for others. Consensus from Board, Superintendent, and Treasurer is that turf is not a priority at this time.
 - Christine Sawicki (CS) reminded the Board that the boilers and chillers will need to be replaced in the coming years. These could cost about \$300,000 each.
 - Stephanie Yon (SY) stated that the Board needs to start with any safety concerns and then move though the list of needs and then wants.
 - AA added that the bleachers will most likely cost \$1 million.
 - CS added that the baseball and softball areas are a priority and need to be taken care of ASAP.
 - JJ asked if we can upgrade the press box and not all of the bleachers at this time.
 - JD asked what the must dos are around campus. CS responded that the sidewalks around campus need to be repaired.
 - JJ asked if we can set aside money each year for chiller and boiler replacement when the time comes. AA responded, yes.
 - BOE agreed that the district should compile a one sheet infographic of the work that has already been completed with levy money and the work that is planned to be done. Also, a preview of what projects may be on the horizon with taking out a loan.
 - BOE prioritized the items they want to focus on:
 - bleachers
 - sidewalks
 - softball/baseball field area repairs (includes drainage and dugout)
 - athletic complex upgrades including new concession area and expanding visitor locker room
 - band bleachers
 - CS stated that there is a need to take a look at the front office and complete some remodeling due to the new needs related to the check in process with the raptor, weapon detectors, etc.

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○ Next steps:

- AA asked BOE to email her the specifics of what they want to see in each project. JS will take the lead on sending the information to AA.
- Then, AA will begin to seek pricing, secure the \$3 million debt issuance, and then send out the appropriate bids.

(25-3-8700)

2. Adjournment:

Moved by Brian Wharry, seconded by Joe Sturm to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 pm.

ROLL CALL: Wharry- Yon - Dubos- Johnson -Sturm

Jennifer Johnson declared the motion carried 5-0

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS (BOARD POLICY: KD)

In order for the Board to fulfill its obligation to complete the planned agenda in an effective and efficient fashion, a maximum of 30 minutes of public participation may be permitted at each meeting. Each person addressing the Board shall give his/her name and address. If several people wish to speak, each person is allotted three minutes until the total time of 30 minutes is used. At the discretion of the Board President, the time limit may be extended to five minutes. During that period, no person may speak twice until all who desire to speak have had the opportunity to do so. Persons desiring more time should follow the procedure of calling the Board office to request to be placed on the regular agenda at the Superintendent's discretion. The period of public participation may be extended by a vote of the majority of the Board, present and voting.



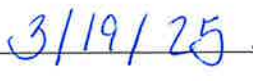
President



Treasurer



Date



Date

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The Lowellville Local School District will educate, empower and challenge our students to reach their individual potentials by providing an environment where tradition, community and excellence create productive members of a global society.

