

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

**February 27, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.
Remote (Zoom)**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: April Nye and Joseph Pires

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Frances-Feliz Kearns

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools, Howard Barber, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, Eugene Jones, Director of Facilities and Chris Carrig, ORRHS Athletic Director

Meeting called to order at 12:04 p.m. by Ms. Nye.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:

Superintendent Nelson reviewed that as discussed at the last meeting the subcommittee supported moving forward with a proposal from Activitas for athletic field planning services. The proposal included 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. Since then, options from the consultant were reviewed between himself, Mr. Barber, Mr. Jones, Mr. Carrig and Mr. Devoll, ORRHS Principal. The options that include adding fields exceed earmark funds. Superintendent Nelson reviewed the options with the subcommittee and shared the recommendation of administration is the option to refurbish and install irrigation on the fields in the front and back (baseball and softball) of the school. Estimated expenses are \$719,557.63 by the consultant for projected costs. Superintendent Nelson explained the priority is to install irrigation to maintain favorable field conditions.

School Committee Feedback:

Ms. Nye asked the impact on ORR sports teams in the spring and next school year. Mr. Carrig shared they are already planning and looking at scheduling challenges and options to remedy, which may include more away games, utilizing other fields in the Tri-Town, etc. Ms. Nye shared she looks forward to what will be done with these funds. Mr. Pires agreed and appreciates moving forward with future expansion in mind if funds became available. Superintendent Nelson added that with their support, this will be an agenda item at the ORR School Committee meeting looking for support from the full committee.

Motion by Ms. Nye to accept the plan for the updated design option estimated at \$719,557.53 from Activitas and enable the district to solicit bids for project.

Seconded by Mr. Pires

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

Motion Carried 2-0.

Next, Superintendent Nelson reminded the subcommittee that at the last meeting, they agreed next steps of the long-term debt project included discussions to take place with Select Board members in each town. Superintendent Nelson recently had informal discussions with town officials. Marion had already supported the project. Mattapoissett would welcome a formal presentation of the project and Rochester felt the Select Board and the school committee could meet and discuss the project, if the school committee agreed to do so. Superintendent Nelson added that the full assessment from last year did include inflation estimates so he would like to understand from the subcommittee if they would like Mr. Barber and himself to continue to move forward.

School Committee Feedback:

Ms. Nye supported moving forward as Marion was already on board with the project last year, and she believes the items in the assessment such as HVAC facilities, door security and PA upgrades are necessary. She is happy to address this project at the town meeting. Mr. Pires thanked Superintendent Nelson for checking in with each town and he also supported moving forward. He did request more details and itemization being shared with each town. Superintendent Nelson added transparency is important and some feedback he heard was community members thought ORR was looking for \$12million in each town, rather than the total, which would be clarified in the article presented to the towns for voting.

Motion by Ms. Nye for the administration to continue discussion of the long-term debt project with the town officials and bring to the full committee in order to move forward.

Seconded by Mr. Pires

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

Motion Carried 2-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Motion by Ms. Nye to adjourn the meeting

Seconded by Mr. Pires

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

Motion Carried 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'M. Nelson'.

Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools