

The Olentangy Facilities Committee Meeting
March 3, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.
Olentangy Administrative Offices- Berlin Room

In attendance for the Facilities Committee were:

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| ☒ Eisenhower, Frank | ☐ McCaughey, Kevin |
| ☐ Eisinger, Brian | ☐ Rogers, Greg |
| ☒ Fouss, Andy | ☐ Scott, Mark |
| ☒ Gilliam, Jarrod | ☐ Smith, Wesley |
| ☐ King, Dave | ☐ Troxell, Joe |

Also in attendance were Lizett Schreiber (BOE Representative), Scott Baker (member candidate), Brian Baker (OLSD observer), Michelle Huang (student presenter), Camryn Harris (student presenter), Mihika Narayan (student presenter), Ryan Jenkins (OLSD), Jeff Gordon (OLSD) and Michelle Murphy (OLSD).

Frank Eisenhower called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the night's agenda and the minutes from the January 7, 2026, meeting.

Jarrod Gilliam moved, and Frank Eisenhower seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Jarrod Gilliam moved, and Frank Eisenhower seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2026, meeting. Motion carried.

Student Presentation-

Mr. Gordon introduced OLSD students Michelle Huang, Camryn Harris and Mihika Narayan to the Facilities Committee members in attendance. The student group provided a presentation and proposed a resolution for the pursuit of district energy sustainability through the process of gradual infrastructure replacement. A copy of the students' presentation is available upon request through the district's Business Office.

The students shared their view that energy initiatives matter because many environmental resources are finite and non-renewable. Fossil fuels will become more limited over time and will last longer if we can slow down our use and dependence on them. Additionally, they believe that materials such as fossil fuels can have a negative impact on the environment.

Air quality is one of the larger environmental concerns that has broadly reaching implications on the planet in both the short and the long term. A recent example of air quality issues was the Canadian wildfires. The smoke was far reaching and impacted areas of the United States by reducing visibility and creating air conditions that were potentially hazardous to student and citizen health. As a result, the students' support energy initiatives that promote good air quality.

The students' research found that U.S. schools currently emit greenhouse gases equivalent to 18 coal-fired power plants (or 15 million cars) annually. As a result, the students believe that if school

districts commit to change, that small modifications in equipment and procedures over time can make a big difference in conserving energy and protecting the environment.

Compounding the need for additional energy conservation, is the increase in energy demand by data centers being installed all around the state. The Columbus metropolitan area experienced an 1800% increase in data centers from 2020-2025. The number of data centers in Columbus continues to increase rapidly and energy demand continues to soar as a result. The cost of energy to consumers is also rising due to the increased energy demand. The possibility of rolling blackouts throughout Columbus (and other) areas from the increased energy demand is also a real concern.

As a result, the students are asking that schools (like Olentangy) and businesses become stakeholders in the energy conservation process. They believe that small changes in materials, equipment and procedures over time will yield large energy conservation impacts and reduce long-term operational costs.

The students asked Olentangy Schools to integrate into its energy conservation process a focus on renewable and electric infrastructure in the future. They would like to see Olentangy Schools implement the process gradually over time as older equipment ages out and requires replacement. When replacing equipment, the students asked that Olentangy focus on energy efficient equipment and electric equipment to replace any non-electric equipment in use. For example, the simple replacement of gas-powered mowers, trimmers and blowers with equivalent electric equipment would eventually result in significant energy savings by the district and lessen the overall impact on the environment. Maximizing the use of LED lighting is also effective and recommended.

The students took time to commend Olentangy Schools for its current responsible energy stewardship, its efficiency in district facility updates, and its commitment to participation in the Energy Star program relevant to district buildings and facilities. They are pleased to be a part of a district that already values the importance of energy conservation.

However, the students would like to see the district further their current energy initiatives by proposing a resolution be adopted by the district that:

1. Focuses on identifying and applying for federal and state grants, subsidies or rebates (when available) that support energy efficiency, equipment replacement, and overall energy sustainability.
2. Commit to energy efficient or electric appliances for the remodeling or building of schools.
3. Prioritize battery powered or plug in alternatives to fossil fuel powered landscape maintenance equipment upon replacement.

Members in attendance thanked the students for their presentation and a general discussion session commenced.

- Member Jarrod Gilliam appreciated the economic feasibility of the students' plan for the district. It is much more realistic for the district to be able to replace materials and equipment over a gradual period-of-time than to be expected to replace it all at once.
- Chair Frank Eisenhower shared that electrical engineering is one of the hottest employment fields out there right now.

- OLSD Chief Operations Officer, Jeff Gordon, shared that several of the district's current projects (the Glen Oak Chiller replacement project and the Stadium LED Lighting project) will already achieve some of what the students are requesting of the district relevant to energy conservation.

Members once again thanked the students for the information and their interest in supporting district initiatives. They asked to keep the students' proposed resolution for further review at a future meeting.

Energy Initiative-

Mr. Gordon proceeded to share a PowerPoint presentation with members regarding the district's current energy program and initiative. A copy of the presentation is available upon request through the district's Business Office.

Mr. Gordon advised that the district started its formal energy initiative in 2013. District energy use has been down consistently since the implementation of the program. Unfortunately, energy rates continue to rise, which reduces the actual amount of savings in dollars annually (despite consistent or similar energy usage). Data centers in the region are having an impact on electrical rates/costs seen by the district. Regardless, the district has saved over 7 million dollars in energy costs since the last levy.

Mr. Gordon shared that the three main energy cost factors for the district are:

1. How we purchase
2. How we operate
3. What we use

The current review did find an increase in natural gas and electric use by the district in 2025 from the prior year. Mr. Gordon is tasking staff to take a deeper look into the possible cause(s) behind this. The district does submeter its buildings and this may be a source of good information. Similar floor plan buildings can also be compared to each other to detect possible discrepancies in energy use. Member Andy Fouss shared that weather and building facing (north/south/east/west) may also factor in the difference of energy use between like buildings. Member Jarrod Gilliam suggested that insulation requirements at the different time periods in which the buildings were built could also factor in the variation of some energy use. Chair Frank Eisenhower suggested that Mr. Gordon let the STEM students participate in the research into this issue for some good real-life experience with troubleshooting and problem solving.

Building Updates-

Mr. Gordon shared with members that the ground-breaking ceremony for the new Elementary #18 project is scheduled for 3/26/26. Members should receive an invitation to the ceremony soon (if they have not already).

We have received great bid numbers for the Elementary #18 project. The bid numbers have come in under the projected estimate for Elementary #18. Unfortunately, the numbers are approximately 1.9 million dollars more for this building than when it was bid out in 2024 (and could not be constructed because the levy did not pass).

Site work and annexation work is currently in process for the High School #5 project.

PI Projects-

Treasurer, Ryan Jenkins, briefly attended the meeting and shared that the bonds for the district's new buildings have been sold and accounts for the new projects have been funded. 220 million has been funded to the district projects accounts and 15 million to the district's debt service fund.

Mr. Gordon shared that the district has bid out most of the large improvement projects planned for the summer of 2026. Public bids for asphalt, roofing, windows, LED stadium lighting and a new Chiller for Glen Oak Elementary (GOES) have all been successfully bid at this time. Bid pricing for district asphalt continues to be better than expected (price per sq. yard) due to the large areas of work that are consistently offered to the vendors by the district. Bids for district flooring improvements are due in late March.

Bids through purchasing consortiums were utilized this year for roofing, the GOES chiller and the LED stadium lighting project. The district continues to receive competitive pricing through these consortiums.

A large grant was received by the district which will be used for a new laboratory in the district's STEM facility.

General Business-

Members welcomed candidate Mr. Scott Baker to the Facilities Committee meeting. Mr. Baker is a local resident and architect that has an interest in joining the committee. He was referred to the committee by Greg Rogers. The members in attendance were in support of the Board of Education approving Mr. Baker as a member of the Facilities Committee at the 3/10/26 BOE meeting.

Please note that the Facilities Committee meeting in April 2026 will be on the 2nd Wednesday of the month due to spring break. The meeting is scheduled for 4/8/26.

Mr. Gordon would like to discuss a possible Technology building for the district at an upcoming meeting.

Influencers-

Growth of data centers in Ohio were discussed as one of the largest influencers on the district at this time relevant to energy costs.

Frank Eisenhower called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Jarrold Gilliam moved, and Andy Fouss seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Facilities Committee meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

The next monthly meeting is tentatively scheduled for 4/8/2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Gordon