



WHITNEY POINT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting

Whitney Point High School Building

Library

P.O. Box 249

Whitney Point, NY 13862

WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, August 5, 2014

6:30 p.m.

District Mission:

To provide an excellent education ensuring that all children maximize their potential, become contributing citizens, and pursue lifelong learning.

District Beliefs:

- All children possess unique qualities and come to school eager to learn and be successful.
- We respect all people within our community and treat them with dignity at all times.
- **Learning** is a partnership that includes school staff, parents, family and the community.
- Knowledge allows for critical thinking and effective decision-making.
- The community is well served by maximizing the use of available resources and by the responsible stewardship of assets.
- Purposeful and intentional change is a constant that leads to educational improvement and positive results.
- Compliance with state and federal regulations is critical to school district success.

District Vision:

- To be a community of excellence achieved through a commitment to HIGH performance, morale, and involvement.

Meeting called to order at 6:39 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited

		<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Sara Bencoter	President	x	
Stephanie Champney	Vice-President		x
Kathleen Driscoll	Member	x	
Brian Jeker	Member	x	
Gene-Paul Jordan	Member	x	
Thomas Tasber	Member	x	
Daniel Thorp	Member	x	
Patricia Follette	Superintendent of Schools	x	
Jo-Ann Sexton	Dir. of Curriculum and Instruction	x	
Zachary Woodard	School Business Executive	x	
Cynthia Burchell	District Clerk	x	

Others in attendance: Terry Dean, Ed Driscoll, Mike James, LuAnn Kida, Fred Riordan, Nick Signorelli, Tammarra Kutz.

A. WORK SESSION

Ms. Follette reviewed the difference between the three Scenarios of a potential Capital Project.

Fred Riordan stated that Scenario One includes classroom renovations in the High School and CEA. He stated Scenario Two includes the renovations in Scenario One plus a concession stand and public restrooms with running water and electric at the Tymeson Field. Mr. Riordan stated Scenario Three includes the renovations in Scenario One and Scenario Two plus a multi-purpose, synthetic turf field with lighting and sound system.

Zachary Woodard explained Scenario One has an estimated .95% tax levy increase, Scenario Two has an estimated 1.58% tax levy increase and Scenario Three has an estimated 5.36% tax levy increase. He explained if approved, the tax impact would not be felt by taxpayers for two to three years. If approved, the district would need to incorporate the tax levy with their typical operating budget increase in the annual budget vote.

Brian Jeker asked what would happen if future taxes were voted down.

Ms. Follette stated it could result in lay-offs and cuts would be made to educational areas to fund the project.

Sara Bencoter asked when money is actually levied.

Zachary Woodard stated it would not be a factor in the tax levy formula for two or three years. He explained you can't seek the levy increase for a project before you borrow the money.

Mr. Dean stated the turf field has a life of 10 years. He stated it would cost approximately \$750,000 to replace the actual turf and the expense would not be aid-able.

Mr. Woodard stated that is correct. We would have to go out to the voters for another \$750,000.

Ms. Follette stated the district is just now coming out of a dark period with flat aid over the last 4-5 years. She stated the district's budget is very tight and they are trying to provide the best education for the kids while still being able to do some of the things the district would like to do for the kids as well. She stated the gap elimination is still there and we are still barely getting out of the age of flat aid and the perception of a 2% tax cap. She stated going out with Scenario 3 may not be the best thing to do at this time.

Sara Bencoter stated Whitney Point needs a multipurpose field. She stated the multi-purpose field should be pursued, but it is not an "A" list item. She stated she would like to have a plan for it, and that the \$750,000 turf replacement cost should come down a little over the next few years.

Brian Jeker asked about the area inside the track. Would all fields fit inside of it?

Thomas Tasber stated a multi-use field should be used by all teams. We would have to modify what we have in place currently.

Mike James stated the track would need to be widened to fit a soccer field.

Ms. Follette stated if a turf field was to be built, it should be multi-use.

A discussion ensued regarding maintenance.

Ms. Follette stated if the turf field is something the public wants, the district should take care of the safety issues and high priority items first and then the district should make a plan for the turf field going forward.

Ms. Follette stated the maintenance building is also an item that needs to be addressed but is not aid-able.

Mr. Woodard stated perhaps we could attach the maintenance building to the bus garage which would be aid-able.

Ms. Follette stated if something is important to the community, it needs to be considered and we need to develop a plan.

Mike James stated next year the district will have an opportunity to address our plan for those considerations in our next state required 5 Year Plan.

Sara Bencoter stated if the BOE approves the current 5 Year Plan that is going to be recommended for approval tonight, would that restrict what we can do until 2019? That would be way too long.

Mike James replied that this current plan goes from 2010 to 2014. The five year plan is a dynamic plan and could be revisited next year.

Mr. Riordan stated the point is well taken. He stated Chenango Forks only did a turf multi-purpose field after all the A list items were done.

Brian Jeker stated he would like to see air-conditioning in the gym and auditorium right away. He asked how soon construction would begin.

Mr. Riordan stated September 2016 if a capital project is approved by the voters in December of 2014. He stated the cost of air conditioning will be relatively low because the district has done some of the work ahead of time.

Gene Jordan asked for clarification on the kind of turf in scenario three and stated any turf considered should be for a multipurpose field.

Kathleen Driscoll stated the Board needs to look at the tax payers in our area. She stated they need to stay focused on what the district "needs" now. She stated the turf field should be down

the road. She stated she agrees with the renovations in the academic areas. She asked if the scenarios could be changed once approved.

Nick Signorelli stated, no. There is some flexibility within how they are done, but SED requires you to stick to your plan once it is approved.

Fred Riordan stated timing is right for a December vote. He stated the Architects' design takes approximately 10 months, and another six months will be needed for SED review the plans, then everything will need to be bid. He stated construction would begin around the summer of 2016.

Ms. Follette asked Mike James if the plan is to eventually have a turf field in the future, would the proposed concession stand and restroom facilities be incorporated into the current plan.

Mike James stated the turf field plan would take the full property into consideration.

Sara Bencoter stated she liked Scenario Two but would like the concession stand and restroom facilities created to not be destroyed later to accommodate a turf field if that were to happen.

Ms. Follette asked if it is possible to build the concessions stands and bathrooms and incorporate them into a future plan.

Mike James stated yes.

Nick Signorelli stated they would need to review the current plans and make sure it is incorporated correctly with that in mind.

Brian Jeker asked if the bathrooms are seasonal.

Mike James stated yes.

Ms. Follette asked the Board of Education which scenario they preferred.

The Board consented to the Second Scenario.

Ms. Follette stated she wanted to be sure the community needs are met as well. She stated Scenario One contains priority items. Scenario Two contains the priority items and what the community wants and what the community/district would like to accomplish. Scenario Three has more of a tax impact. She stated she would have a hard time bringing Scenario Three to the taxpayers. She stated Scenario Three could be a reality, just not this time around.

Thomas Tasber asked if the taxes would increase, would it be able to be less of an impact if we spread it out over time. Does a 7% increase stay a 7% increase?

A discussion ensued regarding the different Scenarios and the idea of a "Sunset," or future reduction in taxes after higher tax increase.

Dan Thorp introduced the consideration of local volunteer work. Fred Riordan clarified that any work over a certain threshold requires SED approval. He stated it is possible, but SED has regulations and price limits that we would need to adhere to.

B. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Follette recommends Board approval of the motion to adjourn the public workshop at 7:45 p.m.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Gene Jordan

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia Burchell

District Clerk