

Rochester Joint Schools Construction Board
Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2024
4:00 PM

Present – Called to Order by the Board Chair at 4:03 PM

The meeting was attended by Board Chair Thomas Richards, Vice Chair Shawn Farr, Treasurer Kim Jones (virtual), Richard Perrin, Jesse Dudley (4:09), Jacob Scott (4:04), Ron Gaither, General Counsel Ed Hourihan (virtual), ICO Brian Sanvidge, State Monitor Jaime Alicea, State Finance Monitor Mark Potter and Superintendent Carmine Peluso (virtual).

Approval of Minutes

Monthly Meeting held on March 11, 2024

Motion by Board Member: Ron Gaither

Second by Board Member: Richard Perrin

Approved: 6-0

Action Items

Resolution 2023-24:29

Pay Requisition Summary Acceptance (March 2024)

Moved by Board Member: Shawn Farr

Second by Board Member: Ron Gaither

Adopted: 7-0

Resolution 2023-24:30

Authorization to Release Phase 3A & 3B Architect RFPs

Moved by Board Member: Rich Perrin

Second by Board Member: Ron Gaither

Adopted: 7-0

Resolution 2023-24:31

Authorization to Release Phase 3 Insurance Consultant RFP

Moved by Board Member: Shawn Farr

Second by Board Member: Jesse Dudley

Adopted: 7-0

FUND BALANCE REPORT:

The Fund Balance Report has been temporarily omitted for reconciliation with the Rochester City School District.

Meeting Notes

- Chairman Richards asked Program Director, Pepin Accilien, to discuss the need for authorization to release RFPs for design services for the first group of projects in order to keep the program and schedule on track. Prior to Mr. Accilien's presentation, Chairman Richards stated that contract awards will not be made until after approval of the Strategic Plan but the Board needs to be prepared. Mr. Accilien emphasized the importance of timely decision-making, with many steps in the planning and implementation process needing to align perfectly to meet the June 2031 deadline. A detailed schedule of the project timelines was presented and approval milestones by the State Comptroller and SED were highlighted. Mr. Accilien acknowledged that the schedule is aggressive but stressed that delays could result in the loss of another summer construction season and significantly push back the project timeline. Vice Chair Shawn Farr explained that, from the District perspective of minimizing disruption to the students, a missed deadline that would appear to have an impact of a couple of months actually shifts the project by six months to a year and that delay would flow down through the entire Program. Member Rich Perrin requested changes to some of the language in the RFP and it was agreed that the language would be modified prior to release.
- Chairman Richards introduced the request for approval to release the RFP for the Insurance and Bonding consultant. The insurance review process to review the certificates and work with the Independent Compliance Officer to make sure each firm contracted with the RJSCB is compliant with the insurance requirements was emphasized as a crucial step to ensure compliance with the program's requirements and New York State.
- Mr. Accilien began the Program Manager report with the Cost Summary Report. It was shared that the team had been working with various partners, including Wells Fargo and capital market advisors, to develop short- and long-term financing plans. Mr. Accilien highlighted the significant impact of capitalized interest on the local share and presented strategies to maximize available resources for the construction projects. Vice Chair Shawn Farr shared that he would be proposing to the Superintendent a solution that includes carrying the capitalized interest through the District's general fund. Additionally, short term financing could be accomplished utilizing District resources instead of issuing Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs) of up to \$35 million, which is expected to save the cost of issuance along with the interest costs. The updated financial plan, reflecting these changes, will be submitted to the State Controllers Office. Mr. Accilien also reported on the progress of the Master Plan Development, confirming that volumes one, three, and four were completed and approved, and that the financial plan was still being updated. It was explained that the Master Plan would be presented to the Board of Education on April 25th and then transmitted to facilities planning, followed by discussions with SED about the design and construction schedule. Chairman Richards emphasized the importance of securing commitments from SED for turnaround times and the need for cooperation in scheduling a key meeting to formally vote on the strategic plan. Chairman Richards also acknowledged the hard work on the finance plan and discussed challenges with project lead times and equipment availability.

ADJOURNMENT:

4:58 pm.