



The Newport Board of Education held a special meeting on Wednesday, October 6, 2021, at 6:00 PM. The meeting was held at 30 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Newport, KY.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Malone called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call. The following were present: Ramona Malone, Dr. Julie Smith-Morrow, Melissa Sheffel, Sylvia Covington, and Aaron Sutherland.

Ms. Malone asked those in attendance to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance and pause for a Moment of Reflection.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Ms. Shannon Gubser, Gifted and Talented Instructor, was not in attendance due to illness. She will be invited to present at the regular meeting later this month.

### **IRB DISCUSSION**

Mr. Watts shared information he received from the City Manager, Tom Fromme, regarding the Ovation IRB project. The total IRS approved is \$660 million minus the cost of the garage (the city owns the garage which is \$79 million), for a total valuation of \$582 million.

After completion of the total project, the school district would receive between \$1,004,000 to \$1,164,000 for 30 years. The lower number is based on a very conservative valuation of \$500 million.

PILOT payments would start in stages after completion of each particular phase of the project. The first phase is under construction and estimated to be complete by late 2022. The projects are listed in the order they are to be completed:

			#Projected Range	
			Low	HI
H	Hotel	\$28,000,000	\$ 48,000	\$56,000
J	Office	\$25,000,000	\$ 43,000	\$50,000
A1	Townhomes	\$23,000,000	\$ 40,000	\$46,000
A2	Townhomes	\$21,000,000	\$ 36,000	\$42,000
A3	Townhomes	\$23,000,000	\$ 40,000	\$46,000
C1	Apartments	\$41,000,000	\$ 71,000	\$82,000
C2	Apartments	\$41,000,000	\$ 71,000	\$82,000
F	Grocery/Market	\$11,000,000	\$ 19,000	\$22,000
E	Amenity	\$12,000,000	\$ 21,000	\$24,000
G	Dual Brank Hotel	\$36,000,000	\$ 62,000	\$72,000
B1	Apartments	\$73,000,000	\$ 126,000	\$146,000
B1	Condos	\$16,000,000	\$ 28,000	\$32,000
B2	Apartments	\$ 90,000,000	\$155,000	\$180,000
B2	Condos	\$ 21,000,000	\$ 36,000	\$42,000
D	Hotel/Office	\$ 96,000,000	\$ 165,000	\$192,000
F1	Office	\$ 25,000,000	\$ 43,000	\$50,000
Total		\$ 582,000,000	\$ 1,004,000	1,164,000

The board's discussion centered on:

- Expectation that our students will benefit not only financially but also thru quality internships. The board would like to see 6 internships offered per year during the initial phase of this project. Hopefully, it can grow into more thru our vocational education program.
- Housing concerns for the elderly.
- Language agreeing that there would be no charter and/or private school constructed.
- Taxes on vacant property while construction takes place.
- Board would like to see the full agreement that the city is asking to be approved before the next meeting.

Ms. Hoover shared a document regarding PILOT payments the board currently receives from past IRB agreements. We currently receive \$600,521 in payments annually from agreements the board entered in to with the city. PILOT payments do not affect SEEK funding that the district receives from KDE.

### **CONTRACT WITH LARRY BELL, MULTICULTURAL AMERICA, INC.**

Mr. Watts presented a contract for the board to consider for next year's opening day speaker. Larry Bell is a nationally recognized motivational speaker, consultant, and author. He has been working with schools and districts nationwide for over 20 years with very positive results. Before becoming a motivational speaker, Mr. Bell was a high school teacher for 15 years. After teaching, he became a supervisor of multicultural education where he created a behavioral specialist program for the most challenging students. Since then, he has been working with teachers to improve discipline and classroom management.

As an opening day speaker, he ignites excitement about being in the classroom thru passion and humor. He weaves in stories so that all employees are included in the presentation.

It is Mr. Watt's plan to have Mr. Bell come back for training throughout the year.

The board's discussion centered on:

- Tools for teachers to follow through with after training.
- Motivational programs that go by the wayside – how will we keep this on the forefront?
- Updates on how strategies are working throughout the year
- PD days

Mr. Watts informed the board that administrators had finished their first round of walk-throughs and will be sharing their data. His takeaway: we are not challenging our students – we are teaching grade level but there is not enough rigor in the lessons and district walk through data verses school walk through data differs.

We must continue to work on parent involvement. Plans are in place to start Saturday classes for parents. Schools continue to have advisory councils and not site base councils since we are still in CSI status. The advisory councils do continue to meet but have no decision-making authority. Ms. Malone asked that we remind principals to forward meeting minutes to them.

### **QUOTE FROM AMERICAN SOUND FOR CLASSROOM AUDIO REINFORCEMENT SYSTEM**

Mr. Watts is asking the board to approve the quote for audio reinforcement for classrooms throughout the district. The funding for this project has been budgeted thru CARES. Mr. Sutherland said he was not in favor of spending ½ million dollars on this project but is open to discussion. Ms. Malone said she attended a workshop and many parents do have concerns with their children's hearing. Mr. Sutherland asked if teachers will actually use the equipment and Mr. Watts said it will be non-negotiable. Maintenance should be minimal, mainly battery replacement. The biggest issue will be lost microphones.

### **CONTRACT HOURS/RATE OF PAY FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING GRANT WRITING**

The board was given the scope of work that needs to be completed to write the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cycle 19 grant. The grant is anticipated to take 80 hours of after-school contract hours, at a rate of \$45.54/hour. The board would like to cap this amount at \$4,400 (approx. 20% over the projected amount). The board will need to approve anything beyond \$4,400.00.

### **CONTRACT WITH PSST – FRONTLINE CENTRAL INTEGRATION**

This contract will enable PSST to work with the district setting up Frontline Central Integration with MUNIS as well as training. The district currently uses PSST to integrate Frontline Absence Management with MUNIS. This system prevents entering data in two systems which saves time and prevents data entry errors.

On MOTION BY SHEFFEL AND SECONDED BY SMITH-MORROW the board approved the contract with Larry Bell, the quote from American Sound for audio enhancement, the scope of work and pay for writing the 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant, and the contract with PSST for Frontline Central integration.

1268 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

### **BOARD COMMENTS**

At the request of the DPP, the board will need to nominate a representative for the calendar committee. Ms. Sheffel agreed to represent the board on this committee.

Ms. Malone asked for input on changing the meeting times to 6:00 moving forward for all meetings. This time slot does present a problem for Ms. Covington. She was more comfortable with setting the time at 6:15.

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL the meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.

1269 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

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Chairman

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Secretary