



The Newport Board of Education held a special meeting on Wednesday, October 12, 2022, at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held at 30 W. 8th Street, Newport.

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, Aaron Sutherland, and Sylvia Covington.

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

MISSION STATEMENT

The Newport Independent School District will partner with families and the community to nurture, educate, and instill core values in all students to ensure they reach their full potential.

PRESENTATIONS

Ehmet Hayes was in attendance to discuss options for renovating the high school stadium. He presented an overview picture of the stadium outlining phase options.

Considerations for Phase 1 of the renovation:

- Demolition of existing grandstand
- New 1,500 seat grandstand and press box
- Site work (slab, paving, minor utility work, etc.)

Estimated cost - \$2,500,000

Additional estimated soft cost - \$500,000

Total - \$3,000,000

Considerations for Phase 2 of the renovation:

- Restrooms
- Ticket/concession building
- Locker rooms/indoor training facility
- Retaining walls and misc. site work
- Fencing
- Lights and electric

Estimated cost - \$10,016,000

Additional estimated soft cost - \$2,003,200

Total - \$12,019,200

Neither phase 1 nor phase 2 includes conversion of grass areas to turf or work on the track. This estimate will be refined in the future based upon a complete design and construction market changes.

There are two pressing challenges that must be addressed before construction can begin:

1. The stadium is in a flood plain and KDE would need to approve a waiver before proceeding;
2. The stadium must be decommissioned before it can be torn down since it was built using federal funds during the war.

Discussion items included:

- Tear down current garage and building a multi-sport facility with ground floor being turf and the upper floor(s) being a locker room and work out facility.
- Closing existing entrances to facility and having one common entrance
- Interim restrooms
- Food trucks to provide concessions on an interim basis

Ms. Malone asked if there is space in the high school for training? There is a workout area at the high school but it is too small to accommodate the needs of the whole team at one time.

Mr. Sutherland asked what is stored in the garage that is outlined on phase 2 for destruction. Mr. Maines said nothing of real value because the roof leaks. They do store rock salt and a few other items in that space.

Mr. Maines said he is planning to come back to the board in the future with a proposal to construct a garage on the bus lot property so that everything can be stored in one location.

Ms. Sheffel asked what we will use for locker rooms until a facility can be constructed. There were no good solutions given at this point.

Dr. Smith-Morrow asked if the board can make a tentative decision to approve phase 1 while obtaining the waivers needed to proceed with the demolition. Mr. Hayes recommended the board act tonight so that this part is complete when/if everything is approved. Expediting the order for bleachers is important if there is a chance to have any home football games next year.

Mr. Sutherland would like the board to consider installing an official eight lane track in the renovation plans. This renovation is a project that will last for years to come. The board should be pro-active and prepare for the future of the track program.

REPORT FROM FINANCE OFFICER

Ms. Hoover presented two options for the board's consideration for financing phase 1 of the stadium project. Option 1 is a partial bond issue and using \$1,000,000 cash from the Mildred Dean account. Option 2 is a full bond issue. Ms. Hoover is recommending option 1 for financing the first phase. She feels if the board moves forward with an investment plan, the potential to gain some of these funds back with higher interest-bearing accounts will help offset some of the cash being used for the project.

Ms. Hoover said right now, the district does not have bonding capacity to finance the entire project. She recommended moving forward with phase 1 and plan to add an 8-lane track in the future. Both Ms. Sheffel and Dr. Smith-Morrow like the idea of using funds from the Mildred Dean account. That money was set aside for a project such as this.

On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY SUTHERLAND the board approved the BG-1 for phase 1 of the stadium construction project pending approval from KDE and the decommissioning board. The project will be financed using a partial bond issue and \$1,000,000 from the Mildred Dean account.

1356 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Ryan Hahn, head football coach, was present to thank the board for moving forward. This year presented its share of difficulties without locker-room facilities, a sufficient work-out area, or a home field to play on but the team quickly accepted the situation and have played well all season. He thanked everyone for attending the games and showing the players their support.

Mr. Sutherland asked about the football grant. Mr. Watts said we should know something in early-November. He also asked if the AD had any comments about this project.

Mr. Watts suggested we prepare a press release and start a fundraising campaign. He feels there are a lot of Newport fans and alumni who would step up and help with this project.

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION BY SHEFFEL AND SECONDED BY SMITH-MORROW the meeting adjourned. Time: 7:55 PM

1357 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary